

PUNK! HARDCORE & METAL - THE SCUM ALSO RISES

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

Vol. 9 - #3 - Issue 51 - April / May 2013

**ALWAYS
FREE!**



**CARNIVAL
OF HORRORS**

**COMICON & COSPLAY
WEIRD AL
SUFFOCATION
ENSLAVED
DISCIPLES OF POWER**

TATTOOS - MUSIC - HORROR - SKATE - ART



IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR GEEK ON!

The Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo: The only festival in Calgary where you can get your horror, sci-fi, fantasy, film, television, comic book, gaming, and animation fix all in one incredible weekend. Join 60,000 other fans for this celebration of geek culture **April 26-28** at the **BMO Centre, Stampede Park**.

You'll be able to meet your favorite stars such as **Peter Dinklage** (Game of Thrones), **Lena Headey** (Game of Thrones, Dredd), **Norman Reedus** (Walking Dead), **Chris Sarandon** (Fright Night, Princess Bride), **John Carpenter** (legendary horror director), **Linda Hamilton** (Terminator), **Michael Biehn** (Aliens), **Steven Yuen** (Walking Dead), **Gillian Anderson** (X-Files), **Casper Van Dien** (Starship Troopers), **Danai Gurira** (Walking Dead), **Robert Patrick** (Terminator 2), and many more!

Be sure to keep an eye on our website for upcoming announcements of special events, contests, guests, programming and surprises! For tickets and information visit:

calgaryexpo.com  

For the latest updates, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Guest line up is subject to change. Image from AMC's The Walking Dead © AMC. All other images are copyright their respective creators.



ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

Editor-In-Chief - Ira Hunter

Art Director - Chad Persley

Sound Engineer- Willy Jak

Music Editor - Willow Gamberg

Assistant Editor - Dawn Daniels

Ad Design - Clayton Hall & John Warnock

Office Manager - Dan Johannessen

Web Masters - Goatlord, Danny Deane,

Interns Ryan Holmes, Myles Malloy,

Pamela Ouellette, Elizabeth Jarvis

COVER by Tank Standing Buffalo

Writers - Erik Lindholm, Pauly Hardcore, Ryan Dyer, Chuck Wurley, Les Wiseman, Ira Hunter, Ricky Jak, Demonika, Ty Stranglehold, Laceration Lacey, Brenin Barrow, Ryan Primrose, Allison Drinnan, Mr Plow, Charley Justice, Sarah Kitteringham, Michael Allen, Jordan Schritt, Willow Gamberg, Matt Gordon, Kim Kelly, Michael Carnage, Inga Holmgeirsson, Dan Potter, Deanna Danger, Dick Kaupf, Anita Fixx, Catastrophe C, Cody "No Teeth" Cook, Ricky Long, CJ Slez, Metal Baron Parker, Michael Luis, Joseph Leroux, Don McCaskill, Ed Sum, Rod G., Alex Snow, Joseph Leroux

Photographers - John Warnock, Chad Persley, Demonika, Ira Hunter, Jake Jackoff, Keith Norton, Justin Poulsen, Mike Chow, Chris McKibbin, Ryan Dyer, Scott Alexander, Ryan Dyer, Krista Robson, Zia Marashi, Travis McDermid, Brad Reckless, Nathaniel Shannon, Brydon Parker, Pamela Porosky, Dani Eggen, Robin K, Mr. Sable, Jen Warnock, Jason Shultz, Cameron Knowlton, Joelle Prevost, Patti Gordon, William Smart, Allison Drinnan, Milton Stille, Alicia Beisel

Comic Artists - Robin Thompson, Randy Chaos, Dick Kaupf, Ricky Jak, Mark Lehtimki, Tim Canepa

Horoscope - David Zunker - www.mysticmountainlodge.com
Crossword - Dan Scum

Transcription - Erik Lindholm, Pauly Hardcore, Steve Boyd

Interns - Needed Desperately!!! Apply within to info@absoluteunderground.ca

Logo Design - Dirty Donny

Distribution -

Vancouver - Amber Lamoureux, Manly Mark, Mr. Plow, Stiff

Josh, Michelle Everaert, Robin Thompson, my Mom

Whistler - Brydon Parker, Black Ohm Robin

Victoria/Vancouver Island - Big Rick, Cabby Craig, Hippy

Dave, DJ, Jesus, Lackie, Champs of Hell Dan, Langford Rob,

Karly Sue, Krissi-Steele, Jeff Martin

Seattle - CC & Gravy

Calgary - Chad Persley

Edmonton - Rich Bastard

Winnipeg - Jamie Vertigo, South of Heaven Tattoo

Saskatoon - Keith Corbett, Wes Funk

Lethbridge/Medicine Hat - Jeff VandenElzen

Toronto - Glen Dirty Bird, John Di Marco, CJ Slez, Andrew

MacDonald Stewart

Montreal - Jon Asher, Shawn Central,

Austin, TX - Schooley & Lumber Jackie

Published by Ira Hunter

Absolute Underground

PO Box 48076, Victoria, BC V8Z 7H5

info@absoluteunderground.ca

www.absoluteunderground.tv

If you would like Absolute Underground distributed at your business or you are interested in advertising with us please CONTACT US:

Submissions:

submissions@absoluteunderground.ca

Distribution:

distribution@absoluteunderground.ca

Advertising:

sales@absoluteunderground.ca

Classifieds:

prclassifieds@absoluteunderground.ca

Info:

info@absoluteunderground.ca

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE is published 6 times a year (or a close proximity) by Hidden Forces Publishing. No part of this publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Editorial contributions are more than welcome, only if they are being offered exclusively to ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE. The publisher assumes no responsibility for the return or safety of contributed materials and therefore will not be held responsible. All opinions or statements expressed are not necessarily those of the publisher or staff. ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE is distributed throughout Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, Alberta, Toronto and Seattle. The reader must understand that all information given is from many various sources, therefore ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND MAGAZINE cannot be held responsible for any accuracy, completeness or legalities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VICTORIAS LOCALS ONLY - DEEP SEA GYPSIES.....	PAGE 4
VANCOUVER VENGEANCE - XUL	PAGE 5
CALGARY CARNAGE - VIOLENCE.....	PAGE 6
INK SLINGERS - SARAH SAVAGE	PAGE 8
MR. PLOW'S PICK- DESTROY NATE ALLEN	PAGE 10
SHR-EDMONTON - DISCIPLES OF POWER	PAGE 13
WRETCHED WINNIPEG - TERRORIST.....	PAGE 14
SHRED SESSION - LUKE CONNOR	PAGE 16
FIST CITY	PAGE 17
WEIRD AL YANKOVIC	PAGE 18
PREPARING FOR A CONVENTION	PAGE 19
A STUDY OF COSPLAY	PAGE 20
HARDCORE ALLEY - SLUMLORD	PAGE 21
ABSOLUTE HORROR - HUNTER G. WILLIAMS.....	PAGE 22
TORONTO TRASH - SKULLIANS	PAGE 23
HELLIFAX - ORCHID'S CURSE	PAGE 24
CJ SLEEZ	PAGE 26
KVELERTRAK	PAGE 27
ABSOLUTE METAL - ENSLAVED - SUFFOCATION.....	PAGE 28
ABSOLUTE FILM REVIEWS.....	PAGE 31
BUSINESS PROFILE - VAN ISLE PROMOTIONS	PAGE 31
ABSOLUTE ALBUM REVIEWS.....	PAGE 32
ABSOLUTE LIVE REVIEWS	PAGE 33
TOXIC TOAST - THE SLACKERS.....	PAGE 34

JOIN THE

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND CREW!

We are currently looking for interns, practicum students, photographers, writers, web and print designers, ad sales associates, basically if you think you have something to offer we will listen.

We are seriously looking for people in Edmonton & Toronto.

Please email info@absoluteunderground.ca with your talent in the subjectline along with a samples of your work and or website links, your resume, as well as the city you are living in...

GOOD TIME DAVE'S FISHING CHARTER

Fishing South~Western Vancouver Island

250~383~9252



SPIRAL CAFE

418 CRAIGFLOWER RD. 386-9303



SERVING ORGANIC COFFEE
LIVE MUSIC 6 NIGHTS A WEEK

Check out our New and Used selection of
Heavy Metal, Punk and Rock LPs



Phone: +1 (604) 488-1234
319 W. Hastings St. Vancouver, BC, Canada
Check us out online at www.vinylrecords.ca

Impact is Imminent...

ADVERTISE ON ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND TV

In Show Commercials. Segment Sponsors. Web Banners

Be a part of the **NEW MEDIA UNDERGROUND**

info@absoluteunderground.ca

office 1-250-590-8896



WWW.ABSOLUTEUNDERGROUND.TV



UPCOMING SHOWS IN APRIL AND MAY

THU APR. 4TH	GASTRIC ACID, THE SLAGS, PISTOL WHIPPED	8\$
FRI APR. 5TH	HILLSIDE HOOLIGANS, RAISED BY APES, STILTSKINS	\$12
SAT APR. 6TH	DURBAN POISON MAGNETIC 7" RELEASE PARTY	
	FT.- DURBAN POISON, FABLEWAY, THE EASTONES	\$10
THU APR. 11TH	ATRIOUS LEVIATHAN, GUESTS TBA	\$10
FRI APR. 12TH	CLASS OF 1984, THE BELUSHIS, THE BROKEN HANDS	\$10
SAT APR. 13TH	NEIL E. DEE BIZZARIETY AT LOGANS PUB	
	FT. ULTRA BURLESQUE FROM AVA LURE,	
	BELLY DANCE BY CANDACE ALDRIDGE SANCHEZ,	
	SPECIAL GUESTS-"ANGLE GRINDER BABES",	
	MS.EERIE & PUNKIE SCREWSTER., REAL,LIVE,	
	DANGEROUS SIDESHOW STUNTS BY NEIL E. DEE	\$12
SAT APR. 20TH	EVES OF DESTRUCTION ROLLERDERBY AFTERPARTY!!	
	FT. BALL GAG N' CHAIN GANG, MD WREN AND THE SICK KIDS	\$10
WED MAY. 1ST	HELMS LEE, GUESTS TBA	
FRI MAY. 3RD	BABYSITTER, GUESTS TBA	
SAT MAY. 4TH	THE CHANTRELLES, PERCHERON	TBA
MON MAY. 6TH	ACID MOTHER'S TEMPLE, THE HIGH ARCTIC , TJUTJUNA	
THU MAY. 9TH	BALL GAG N' CHAIN GANG, GUESTS TBA	10BUX!
FRI MAY. 10TH	BUZZARD, GUESTS 10 DOLLARS	
FRI MAY. 17TH	NEIL E. DEE BIZZARIETY VARIETY SHOW BIZZARIETY!	\$12
THU MAY. 30TH	FREAK HEAT WAVES, THE WICKS	10 DOLLARS

PUB

PROUDLY INDULGING YOUR WEAKNESSES SINCE 1997

LIQUOR STORE

Open Daily from 10am



Deep Sea Gypsies

Interview by Matt Gordon

Absolute Underground's Matt Gordon catches up with Victoria's Deep Sea Gypsies, who just recently released their second full-length album.

Absolute Underground:
What is the name of your album?

Deep Sea Gypsies: The album is called "Chilco Road", named after our first jam space where the songs were all written and about half of them were recorded as well.

AU: And where can one acquire said album?

DSG: We will have copies at all our upcoming shows... and it will be available through our website very soon.

AU: What's the name of that website?

DSG: www.deepseagypsies.com and www.facebook.com/deepseagypsies or Twitter heads can hit up @deepseagypsies

AU: I hear you guys were doing something with "Mindil Beach Markets", was it a dual album release?

DSG: Yeah, we met and toured with MBM late in 2012 and quickly became a big musical family. They recently moved out of their jam house to hit the road full time and we took the place over and live/jam there now. They are great guys and have helped us out a ton, we plan to work together on shows quite often and will probably tour together again soon. Coming



VICTORIA'S LOCALS ONLY

up May 3rd and 4th we are playing back-to-back shows with them at Moby's Pub on Saltspring Island.

AU: How was the album release party?

DSG: The party was amazing, we toured last year with

the boys from MBM and as it turned out they were releasing their second album around the same time, so naturally we joined forces for a double release party. It was at Sugar Nightclub, packed house, great sets, amazing crowd of almost 600. Couldn't have gone better, really. We will have some good live footage of our set from the show up online soon, shot by the very talented Colby O'Neill who also shot the video for our first single, "Psychedelic World". You can check that out now on YouTube.

AU: Where do you most often perform?

DSG: We made the common rookie mistake of performing too much in the Victoria area during our first year as a band. So, now we're selective, currently we play equally at home and out of town, mainly on the island but have been as far as Calgary, and we're gonna get to the mainland a few times again this year.

AU: Any upcoming tours?

DSG: Touring the island this year in as many cities as humanly possible and we'll run through the interior once and out to Calgary

again, all in 2013. Tour stops will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

www.deepseagypsies.com

www.facebook.com/deepseagypsies

@deepseagypsies

★ **DISGRACELAND** ★
~SAVE ROCK N' ROLL, PENTICTON~



Attention Bands Looking for shows in the BC Interior....

Get at us already!

DISGRACELANDPENTICTON@GMAIL.COM



LOOK SORT OF FAMILIAR?

Island Fantasy 2013

Coming this Winter. Victoria, BC



XUL

Interview by Michael Carnage

XUL is a five-piece blackened death metal outfit based out of Vernon, BC. They released their debut album, *Malignance*, in 2012, which is available for free download from their Bandcamp page, and they will be opening for Chapel, Auroch and Absu in Vancouver on April 24th. Michael Carnage caught up with vocalist Levi

Meyer to chat about the band, their record, upcoming shows and the origin of their name.

Absolute Underground: As far as I can find, XUL is the name of a programming language, or maybe a Mayan word... I'm clearly missing something. What's behind the name?

Levi Meyer: Well to be honest, the first time we ever came across the name was in the Behemoth song "XUL". We mulled around a couple other names, but after researching that XUL in Sumerian meant "evil", we thought it fit the type of music we were writing. We get the Ghostbusters thing: "There is no Dana, only Xul!" a lot. People used to chant it at our super early shows, but it kind of

died out.

AU: How many years of jamming did it take before you started to record anything?

LM: We recorded an EP in 2010. We recorded it in Wallace's basement, so the quality wasn't great, but it got our music out there. It took us around a year to write some new songs and record *Malignance*. I'm not even sure where our EP went, it's probably out there somewhere.

AU: Have you guys ever felt the need to move to Vancouver or a larger city to get more attention, or are you happy with what you are accomplishing in Vernon?

LM: We've been discussing a move to Vancouver next year, but a lot can change in a year. We'll have to see how things go. We are happy with what we have accomplished while living in Vernon, but I think a bigger city could help us play more shows to larger/newer crowds. It is nice to be the out-of-town band in some situations, but it'll have to happen eventually. Regardless, our plan is to tour as much as possible.

AU: Your influences are clear (You list Behemoth, Dissection, Immortal and Enslaved, among others) but what have you guys done in order to stand alone apart from other bands that are already established?

LM: We're all pretty critical of each other. If something sounds blatantly similar to another band, we'll change it. There is a line between an influence and a template, and I think we've done a good job of not falling into another band's template. Sometimes it can be frustrating when you write something you think is unique, but then when you present it to the group, someone says, "That's a -bandname- riff!" Then follows a moment of cussing said band because you've been listening to them for the past month and somehow it seeped into your subconscious!

AU: You haven't played too many shows yet, but is there a show or a venue that has been a



clear favorite so far?

LM: I really like the Pawnshop in Edmonton. It has a pretty awesome stage and a lot of crowd space. The sound was sick and there was a decent turnout. There was actually like an even ratio there. I should also mention Armstrong Metal Fest. We are playing there this year for the fifth time. July 19th and 20th. Two days of camping, beer and metal... is there anything better? If you haven't been there, it's something you have to experience for yourself.

AU: I'll assume that maybe opening up for Absu in April could take over as your favorite show, how much excitement do you all have for that show?

LM: It's pretty fuckin' amazing. We can't believe we are actually going to be sharing the stage with a band as legendary as ABSU!! I'm gonna try not to make a fool of myself around them. It's hard to not fan boy it up around such wicked bands, but I find the ultimate advice is this: when they aren't

VANCOUVER VENGEANCE

Absu, they're just regular dudes...you know?

AU: What's your food and liquor of choice when you're on the road?

LM: Pilsner and Wendy's! Marlow makes some homemade apple juice and cranberry juice that we never hit the road without. One shot of that cranberry juice can cure a hangover. Oh, and beef jerky.

AU: Do you guys want to get some beers before the Absu show?

LM: Always. You buyin'? (kidding)

AU: Wicked, titties and pilsner

For more information, or to download or purchase a copy of *Malignance*, visit XUL online at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Xulband>

<http://xulmetal.bandcamp.com/>

THE JOINT

PIZZERIA

1219 WHARF STREET
VICTORIA BC CANADA

250.389.2226

www.eatatthejoint.com

OPEN TILL 3AM FRIDAY & SATURDAY

- × PIZZA BY THE SLICE!
- × DELIVERY TILL 10:30PM
- × GLUTEN-FREE OPTIONS

skaters life

SKATE ROCK CRANKED

NEW & CLASSIC SKATE VIDS

OLD SCHOOL SKATE TRIVIA

RAD FOOD & DRINK SPECIALS

GNARLY PRIZES

EVERY 3RD WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH!

NO COVER!

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

WED. APRIL 17 LOGANS PUB
VICTORIA BC

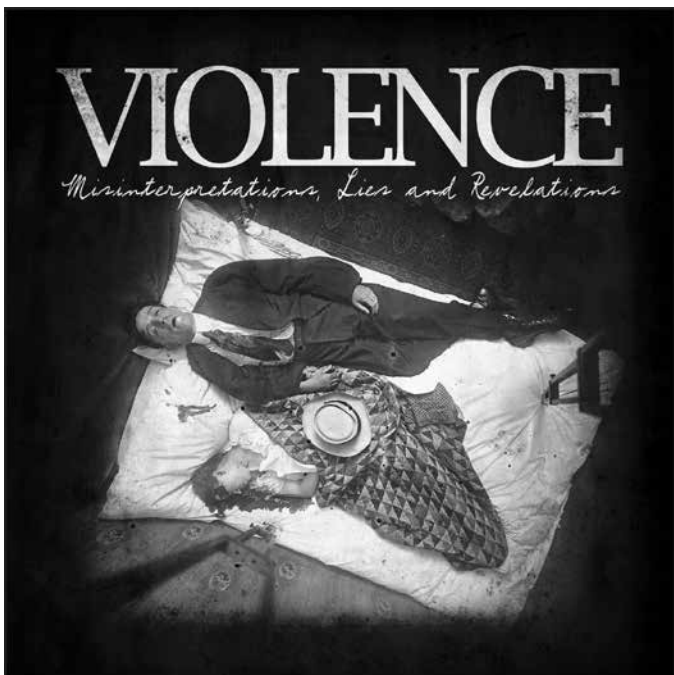
HERE ARE TALES THAT WILL USHER YOU INTO

RX COMICS

2418 Main St Vancouver
BC (604) 454-5099

Mainstream Alternative & Indie Comics
Graphic Novels Collectables,
T-Shirts, Toys
and Much Much More

J. RAY CRAIG



Violence

Interview by Allison Drinnan

You can't always judge a book by its cover, and you certainly can't always judge a band by their name. There is no better example of this then Calgary's own Violence.

"It's got a weird irony to it," laughs guitarist/vocalist Dan Hanycz on a cold March evening at Broken City. "People might come in expecting one thing and really..."

"It's a nice surprise," chimes in drummer Vlad Ivanov.

The foursome, including Ivanov, Hanycz, guitarist/vocalist Lauchlin Toms, and bassist Brian Vandekamp, are about to play a show to a packed venue and are nice enough to have a quick chat.

The show poster looks like a horror show with band names such as Stab, Twist, Pull and Preschool Shooting. Violence – short and simple –

jumps off the page.

I admit to the band, as we sip our beer, that I had assumed they would be a power-violence or grind-core band when I first came across them. The boys laugh and nod in agreement.

I also note that none of them look particularly violent; they are well-dressed, unassuming and usually smiling.

"Violence, for me, I just generally like that word. I just think it sounds really nice," explains Toms while still chuckling. "I like how it looks. We had a number of names in mind. This was a huge debate for a long time."

The band formed in 2012 when Toms, Vandekamp and Hanycz's paths crossed in various ways in Calgary.

Toms was working at Divine, a clothing, piercing and tattoo shop, where he met Vandekamp who had shown interest in forming a post-hardcore project when Toms approached him with the idea.

Toms had also reached out to Hanycz after the two had played a show together with their previous musical projects.

Since then, the band has played numerous shows with well-established acts, released a free 3-song EP entitled Misinterpretations, Lies and Revelations, and made have plans to record this spring.

"We wanted to get it out there. We didn't want to be that band that has been out for several months and doesn't take the time to record," says Hanycz of their first release. "That's what the intention was, just getting out to as many people as we

could."

In their short time as a band, there have been several labels attached to their sound. Just put the words post, emotive, punk and hardcore into a linguistic blender, and the band has probably been labeled some combination of those terms.

Though Hanycz cites post-hardcore as potentially the most accurate (if still vague) genre, a major musical influence for Violence is found in a genre that left a bitter, mascara-streaked taste in people's mouths. I'm talking about E-M-O – Emo.

As Violence sees it, it is the original form of the genre that they take their influence from.

"At first we had... reservations about it," says Hanycz, discussing the emo/screamo label. "It is so associated with the way MTV and music videos made it seem."

Hanycz goes on to say that he finds inspiration from bands, be it emo, screamo or hardcore, who pushed the envelope for traditional hardcore. He says that the impressive song structure "blows him away", with the addition melodic elements and aggressiveness.

"The emotion is the forefront of it," says Hanycz. "That's the stuff that we really love and we feel like as soon as the millennium hit, it got away from that."

Vandekamp says that now there is a movement happening with a collection of musicians who are "making music that really celebrates the emo and screamo ideologies."

"I find that there is this crazy musical scene that

CALGARY CARNAGE



was forgotten," adds Toms, explaining why he doesn't shy away from the term or the genre. "A lot of the bands we listen to have recordings that were made in their basements, really raw and powerful."

This movement is catching on in Calgary, and Violence is evidence of that.

"It's funny," says Vandekamp. "A lot of metal musicians really enjoy what we are doing in Calgary and we find that we're always surprised by it." Toms agrees that the acceptance in various scenes is interesting and encouraging.

The band is planning to record 4 – 6 songs this spring, and hope to release it as a potential split album with another band. The release will be followed by a sumemr tour, which, according to Hanycz, will see them traveling as far east as Winnipeg, and then heading out to B.C.

So do make sure you take the time to partake in a little Violence this summer, and check them out online at violencecalgary.bandcamp.com/

FEATURING -

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

BY LOCAL AND TOURING HEAVYWEIGHTS!

FOR THE LATEST & GREATEST EVENT LISTINGS, VISIT US ONLINE AT

WWW.DICKENSPUB.CA

APRIL

03 KMAN & THE 45'S
CLASS ACTION / CAUGHT OFF GUARD

05 EXIT STRATEGY
VICTIMIZE / EYAM / DOBERMAN

06 DARK FOREST
GATEKEEPER / WILT / THIS IS WAR / VILE INSIGNA

08 DOOMED SOCIETY
CRUST - ANARCHOPUNK - HARDCORE

11 CORMEGA
LARGE PROFESSOR

12 RAHZEL
DJ JS-1 / OMINOUS / TRIPLE T & GUESTS

13 HANG THE DJ: ANNIVERSARY EDITION
RETRO - NEW WAVE - CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE - INDUSTRIAL

15 IN MY COMA
SOLID BROWN / A DECADE LOST

16 THE CASUALTIES
OH SHIT! / CRYSTAL MESS

18 DOPE STARS INC.
RABID WHOLE

20 HEAVY 420
METAL FESTIVAL

22 ABSU
BREED OF WAR / PATH TO EXTINCTION

23 ARKONA
VALREYA / SCYTHIA

25 FAKE MOUSTACHE

26 FREAKY FLOW
HIDDEN ELEMENTS / THE NICK OF TIME & GUESTS

MAY

01 CAULDRON
HELLBORN DEATH ENGINES

02 BROKEN THERAPY

04 HANG THE DJ
RETRO - NEW WAVE - CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE - INDUSTRIAL

11 KNUCKLEHEAD
THE BROWNS / HOCKEY FIGHT

16 FAKE MOUSTACHE

18 UGOL ATAKI

23 GREBER
DOBERMAN / ILK / KID GRUESOME

24 CLASS ACTION

25 HANG THE DJ
RETRO - NEW WAVE - CLASSIC ALTERNATIVE - INDUSTRIAL

30 WEST OF HELL

31 KYLESA
BLOOD CEREMONY / WHITE HILLS / LAZER

[TERMINUS]

REFUELED

JUNE 28 - 30

WWW.TERMINUS-FESTIVAL.COM

DICKENS

1000 - 9TH AVENUE SW | 403-233-7550 | WWW.DICKENSPUB.CA

FLESHWORKS

TATTOOS

VICTORIA, BC 362-0456

FLESHWORKS.CA

Sled Island

MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

JUNE 19-22, 2013

CALGARY, ALBERTA



THE JESUS AND MARY CHAIN // EXPLOSIONS IN THE SKY // SWANS // TORCHE
MAC DEMARCO // DIVINE FITS // TIM HECKER // COLIN STETSON // JOEL PLASKETT EMERGENCY
METZ // THE JON SPENCER BLUES EXPLOSION // THEE OH SEES // SUPERCHUNK
ICEAGE // NIGHT MARCHERS // WHITE LUNG // CODE ORANGE KIDS // TRIGGER EFFECT
UNKNOWN MORTAL ORCHERSTRA // OLD MAN MARKLEY // JOHN K. SAMPSON

PLUS OVER 250 ADDITIONAL BANDS, FILMMAKERS, ARTISTS & COMEDIANS!

FESTIVAL PASSES AVAILABLE FROM SLEDISLAND.COM



Canada



FACTOR

BEATROUTE

exclaim.ca

VICE

CALGARY HERALD

Structured Abstraction

DOSE.ca



Sarah Savage Wolf/Sheep Arthouse

Interview by Alex Snow

Absolute Underground: Why do you do what you do?

Sarah Savage: As far as tattooing goes? Why do I keep tattooing?

AU: Yeah. Why not become a dentist?

SS: Well, I wouldn't survive without art. I like that I can take somebody else's vision and become their art medium- interpreting ideas and putting those ideas on them forever. It's such an intimate job, there's such a bond between artist and client. And if I were a dentist I wouldn't be able to talk to them because they'd have stuff in their mouth all the time. I get to spend like 20-40 hours with

people from all walks of life, and then sometimes never see them again.

AU: Where are you located?

SS: Currently and probably permanently at Wolf/Sheep Art House in Victoria, BC... right next to Absolute Underground.

AU: Do you think your technique, style, or skill level has changed over time?

SS: Oh, definitely. Yes. I think if it ever stops evolving, you should just quit. The day that I stop growing or caring about my own art and my



own work is a day that I hope never comes, I'll be so disappointed if it does.

AU: Where do you draw your inspiration from?

SS: Oh, everywhere. It's different if it's a commissioned tattoo because I get inspired by the client. Technically speaking, though, my number one inspiration is graphic novels. I probably spent a good ten years of my life copying Todd McFarlane in an attempt to steal his powers.

AU: Do you have a tattoo you're proudest of?

SS: That's a hard question...I'm most proud of the ones in progress right now. There's this one sleeve I'm still working on, and it's got

angels fighting demons that are being dragged to hell. Also, I don't know if many people know this, but I'm totally obsessed with clowns. So I'm stoked on this one clown leg piece I'm still working on.

AU: Anything you'd refuse to tattoo on somebody's body?

SS: I've never really been asked to do something against my beliefs. I guess just no racism or gang-related things. But mostly I won't do names or matching couple tattoos. I feel like it's bad voodoo, even if you've been

together for 45 years, I don't want to be the reason for that ending.

AU: So I guess you've never gotten any crazy tattoo requests?

SS: Oh, no I totally have. This one guy came down and got "chicken sandwiches!!!!" on his butt. He didn't even want me to stencil it, he just wanted me to do it free-hand. I told him I could like, draw up a chicken sandwich for

INK SLINGERS



him but I think he lost a bet and just wanted in and out as fast as possible. Butt tattoos are always funny... Chris Vickers, the Rifflandia Music Festival guy got Grimace holding a Rifflandia sign on his butt. Ha-ha.

AU: How do you feel about at-home, D.I.Y. tattoos? (a.k.a. stick'n'pokes?)

SS: I'd discourage anyone from doing it. Mostly for the sake of sterilization, they're really not safe for your body. Yeah, you can go out and buy India ink and whatever, sterilize your sewing needle, but tattoo shops get their ink in a sterilized bottle. You can't even get it if you don't work in a shop. Most

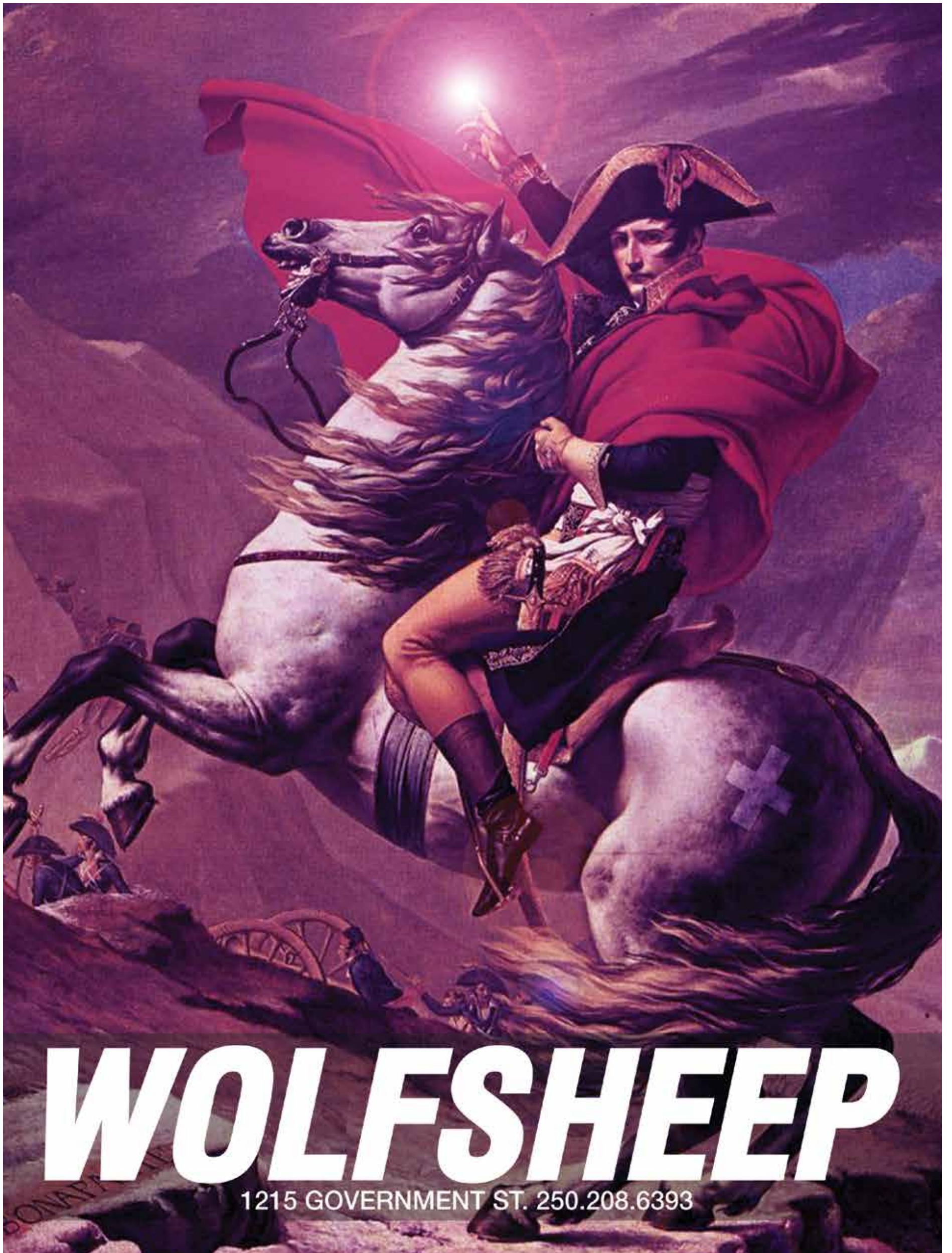
people just don't know what they're doing so it can be really dangerous.

AU: Alright, any final words for people reading this?

SS: Oh damn, I don't really know what people to say to that. Enjoy the evening, Absolute Underground readers? Yeah, that works.

To see more examples of Sarah's work, or contact her, check out www.wolf-sheep.com or [sarah_savage](https://www.instagram.com/sarah_savage) on Instagram.





WOLFSHEEP

1215 GOVERNMENT ST. 250.208.6393



Destroy Nate Allen

Interview by Mr. Plow

Absolute Underground: Who are you and what do you do?

Nate Allen: I'm Nate. Along with my wife Tessa, I sing, beat on a guitar, create awkward moments and play theater games in Destroy Nate Allen.

AU: With all these different sub-genres out there nowadays, can you pinpoint your sound using 3 or less sub-genres to describe it?

NA: We play interactive, sing-a-long, punk rock theater.

AU: You used Kickstarter to fund your latest CD, were you happy with the results?

NA: I was super happy with the experience. It was a great way to reconnect with a bunch of people. My only regret is that I underestimated how long it would take to complete a few of the more ambitious prizes. So I'm still working to finish up the project.

AU: You have toured all over America for months at a time, how did you find the experience of surviving on the road?

NA: Surviving for a long time on the road is always an adventure, but it's also very neat to look back and realize how many times you've been to random towns all over the country.

Here are a few of the tricks we've learned through playing 700 shows since 2007:

Get 8 hours of sleep. Try to only drive 4 hours a day if possible - this often means playing in weird random towns and unconventional spaces. We rarely drive overnight. Learn to fix your van and have a list of mechanics on speed dial. Get a GPS or use a smartphone. Don't get hotels (we cover this below). Don't drink or if you do drink, keep it minimal and never drive drunk. Drink loads of water. Take an insane amount of Vitamin C at the first sign of sickness. We also take vitamins daily. Eat salads. Avoid dairy and sugar as much as possible. Try not to eat out - go to a grocery store instead. Get a rice cooker, we just figured this out

on our last tour and it was a major game-changer... now we can make hot meals while traveling down the road. Tessa has made everything from Indian and Thai food to brownies or cake in the cooker. Having a hot meal really helps keep our spirits up. We also drink a lot of instant coffee or stock up on hot meals that only require water. Learn to book your own shows. Be willing to talk

about money. Make sure everyone has the same expectations for the show. Send thank-you emails to the promoters after the show. Lastly, be nice to people. It goes along way and almost always comes full circle.

AU: In all the times you have toured, you have only stayed in a hotel/motel six times. How is that possible? Do you travel in a RV or camper van?

NA: We jam econo and we have a bed build into our van. We also sleep on a lot of floors... but since we have a bed in the van we only stay at the houses we want to, which changes the equation. I believe we're up to 7 hotels now... so I guess we average one hotel for every 100 shows.



Restricted Entertainment presents
SUNDAYS AT THE RED ROOM
SANCTUARY

Alternative
Industrial
Synthpop
Evil Electro
EBM Goth
Post Punk
AND BEYOND

FREE
BEFORE 10
\$3 AFTER

DJs PANDEMONIUM **CONTRASOMA & R-LEX**
\$4.25 HIGHBALLS & DRAFT BEER • \$4.75 CANS & WINE • FREE POOL
398 RICHARDS ST • 9PM-2AM • SANCTUARYSUNDAYS.COM

AU: The latest disc features a full band sound; do promoters expect a full band when you book a show?

NA: Great question. I was worried about that when we made the album, but our friends in the studio told me to make the best album we could and then worry about performing the songs later. I trusted them and it was good advice. So far we haven't really run into that problem.

AU: Who is this magical back-up band?

NA: On record, our magical band was Gnarboots (Asian Man Records. Members of Link 80 and Shinobu). On tour last summer, we adopted a ska band from Longview, WA called Gamblers Die Broke. We are still trying to figure out what a full band version of Destroy Nate Allen looks like but when it works, it's a hell of a good time.

AU: Will Canada ever see Destroy Nate Allen in the future?

NA: I really hope so. We've looked into it a few times. I was playing outside of Vancouver in 2006 but we've never been up as a duo. If someone

MR PLOWS PICK

wants to book us some shows, we'd love to come up. Playing some shows in Vancouver is high on my list of goals this year.

AU: Shamelessly plug whatever you want people to know, and where they can find your stuff.

NA: Visit www.destroynateallen.com

You can find all sort of adventures there, including our webstore and free downloads of all songs or albums. If you want to know when we finally cross the border, send me an email at destroynateallen@gmail.com and mention our mailing list. If you are a social media user, follow us on Twitter @dstryateallen, don't like us on Facebook.

AU: I saw oven mitts on your merch table, are they a big seller?

NA: For sure. There are definitely nights when they outsell CDs or records.

We've moved to a Brand new location
3111 Cedar Hill Road
250-590-1500
Breakfast & Lunch 9-3
Dinner from 5-10
CABIN 12
RESTAURANT
www.cabin12.ca

Jupiter
VICTORIA
pipes | bongs | rolling papers | books | scales | detox | everything 420

NOW OPEN IN THE HEART OF VICTORIA

LEADING-EDGE CUSTOMER SERVICE
AND THE FINEST SELECTION OF
BONGS, PIPES, VAPORIZERS, PAPERS,
HOOKAHS, AND MORE!


JOIN THE JUPITER VIP PROGRAM FOR **FREE**
FOR **EXCLUSIVE VIP SALES AND EVENTS!**

619 JOHNSON STREET

FOLLOW US ONLINE!

[JUPITERGRASS.CA](https://www.facebook.com/jupitergrass)
YOU ROLL WITH US NOW...

now featuring
Luck DOG



EVERYTHING HAPPENS AT LUCKY BAR
517 Yates Street (250) 382-LUCK
FIND OUT AT WWW.LUCKYBAR.CA

Brickyard
Pizza

784 Yates Street
(250) 995-2722

WE DELIVER
DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS
CATERING & PARTIES
SPECIAL EVENTS

zombie cosplay day
sunday, april 28th
tickets on sale now!
dinner ~ prizes ~ movies

CHECK OUR WEBSITE OR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR A LIST OF OUR COOL COSPLAY SUNDAY EVENTS!

3 Inches of Blood

LIMITED PRESSING
COLOR VINYL

Here Waits Thy Doom

Battlecry Under A Wintersun

GO VINYL

ENTRAILS Raging Death LP
MARTYR Feeding the Abscess LP
WILT Self Titled LP
VIOLATOR Annihilation Process LP
BISON BC Lovelessness LP
ANCIENTS Snakebeard EP
RAZOR Armed & Dangerous LP
SACRIFICE Picture Disc Reissues!

WWW.WARONMUSIC.COM

METROPOL

INDUSTRIES INCORPORATED

METROPOL STUDIO

532 HERALD ST. UNIT #12
VICTORIA B.C.
250.384.7653

METROPOL PRINT

1311 BLANSHARD ST.
VICTORIA B.C.
250.382.2695

We specialize in: Large Banners, CD/DVD Duplication, Poster Distribution
Stickers, and Digital Print

VICTORIA BC SKA SOCIETY PRESENTS

Ska Fest

VICTORIA'S 14TH ANNUAL

MAD CADDIES ★ DUB FX & FLOWER FAIRY

SIERRA LEONE REFUGEE ALL STARS

BLITZ THE AMBASSADOR

THE DEBONAIRE

JK & THE RELAYS ★ THE REVIVERS

CHICAGO AFRO BEAT PROJECT

THE PONDEROSAS ★ GIRAFFE AFTERMATH

THE RESIGNATORS ★ SUBURBAN LEGENDS

BANANAFISH DANCE ORCHESTRA

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REBEL MUSIC ...AND MORE!

JULY 9-13 2013, VICTORIA BC

WWW.VICTORIASKAFEST.CA FACEBOOK.COM/VICTORIA.SKA.FEST

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

atomique productions

NIGHTSEEKER

Plus Guests

TRUE NORTH **STRONG & DEADLY**

FUBAR'S DEANER ON TOUR!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 24 - CLUB 9ONE9 (Victoria, BC)

DOORS 8:00 PM | NO MINORS | ADVANCE TICKETS \$20.00 - AVAILABLE AT LYLE'S PLACE, DITCH RECORDS, THE STRATHCONA HOTEL & ONLINE FROM WWW.TICKETWEB.CA

We have the largest selection of draught beers on the Island

1739 Fort St at Richmond

598-5333

www.christiespub.com

EAT IN / TAKE OUT

NOW OPEN FROM

11 AM till MIDNIGHT EVERYDAY

44 KINGSWAY PH: 604-874-5408



Disciples of Power -The Return

Interview by Erik Lindholm

From the depths of the Alberta scene returns Disciples of Power. After a decade-long hiatus, they return to reconnect with the faithful, and to get a new generation of fans onboard with their brand of metal. The band checks in with AU to describe where the band has been and where they are going. Preparing for the comeback show with loud practices and plenty of energy, the Disciples are sure to bring maximum damage for the upcoming show:

Disciples of Power / Villianizer / Kataplexis / Display of Decay

Edmonton- Pawnshop Live 10551 82 (Whyte) Avenue, Edmonton, AB

Friday, April 19, 2013, doors at 8:00 pm

Absolute Underground: Hello! Set the scene for the readers, who are you guys, and where are you at right now?

Shane Hawco: Hey, were in the jam spot at Wes' place...we're rehearsing to get ready for for the show. Speakerphone is on, let's get it started. We have Shane [vocals], Dean Relf [drums], Ben

Harbak [guitar] and Wes Sontag [guitar].

AU: This is the first show under the DOP name in 10 years...

Wes: Yeah, about 10 years since the last show in 2002. We've been in other bands.

AU: Tell us about getting back together 10 years later; what makes you want to get back together as a band and play some shows?

Dean: It just happened and we just started it back up. We're not getting any younger, and figured we had to bring it back and play these songs again.

Shane: To add on to it, DOP stopped playing in 2002, and shortly after that in 2003, Wes asked me to join Section VIII. I wasn't in DOP at the time. Dean was playing in a band called Warmarch and the guitar player for DOP, Hart, joined up with Dead Man's Train. DOP fragmented and everyone was working on different [projects]. Dean joined Section VIII around 2005, and the band disbanded around 2007. So we turned the DOP machine back on and started playing those songs instead. We got a hold of Hart and asked if he wanted to play - he declined. He said, "Go and do it with my blessing", basically...

AU: The journey of a band, the members of a band, the situation in a band- that all changes. Members come and go. Shane, as a vocalist, how do you feel singing someone else's

material, as well as coming up with your own?

Shane: I did this before and sang with the band. These songs and music have always been an influence to me. I've been a DOP fan for a long time. I met them at a show at the Westward in Calgary in 1991 and ever since then, seeing them live for the first time made a big impression on me. Playing these songs now really has a special meaning for me.

AU: As you come back together and play some of the original songs, is it sparking new ideas for songs and creativity?

Shane: There are no plans for new material right now. The whole point of this is to bring back the old material. Many people have never seen DOP live or heard these songs. It's a different incarnation of the band. We have Ben on guitar



SHR-EDMONTON

and me on vocals, and that changes the sound. New material isn't on the plate right now. Right now we've got five albums to draw on and we are enjoying playing those songs for now.

AU: Memories of a DOP gig that was over the top?

Dean: We had one where Tommy Chong played his set as we were setting up and he wound up introducing us as "old friends of mine", before we lit into the set. That was a good time. Our first real big show, at Highwood in '92. A big festival at Raceway Park.

AU: How do you guys feel you've maintained passion with playing music?

Dean: It's tough. After 25 years, it gets tough to keep it going. If you want to do it, you do it. It's in your blood or it's not. Many people drift off, it has to be something in your blood.

Shane: It's like [being] a mobster... every time you try to leave, they pull you back in. After leaving Wake I thought I was done, and would just focus on my job. DOP and Dean pulled me back in.

Ben: I was done playing in more than one band at a time. But this was something I dreamed about, to play with DOP. It was wild to get the message and here I am in two bands again, being challenged and keeping busy.

AU: Leave the Canadian fans with a last message about the upcoming show.

Shane: You're not going to be disappointed. It's just as intense now live. We've got energy. If you're a fan, come check it out. If you think we're sellouts because Hart's not there, stay the fuck home! Hart gets a percentage of all our merch and album sales. And that is important to us. We'll bring it. Come out and have a beer and enjoy it.

For more information, check out <http://www.disciplesofpower.com>

TERRORIST

Terrorist

'Dangerous music for Dangerous people'

Interview with Fuck Face of Terrorist

By Charley Justice

Genuine music has a definite artistic dimension. Fuck it. Real music IS art. Yes I said it. ART. (Fuck you, by the way). And art is implicitly political - cultural resistance, rage and rebellion. So real music is therefore all of these things - whether you like it or not. Winnipeg has a strong history of politically and culturally relevant music - punk / hardcore no exception (insert obvious namedrops here). Drawing influences from the anti-establishment at home and abroad, an audaciously-titled and contemporary ensemble has organically emerged to carry out their radical unholy duty. The debut full-length, Death Culture Economy, is about to drop - and yes, we caught Terrorist axe-wielder Fuck Face in the act...

Absolute Underground: The name - please tell me it's not sarcastic.

FF: Fuck Face: The name is not so much sarcastic as it is absurd. Terrorist is just an absurd word in general. We slap that word on anything that is challenging. Anything or anyone can be a Terrorist...The rationale being you either get it or you don't. Believe me, there are a lot of people who don't get it.

AU: What terrifies you?

FF: Corporations scare the shit out of me. Oil production scares me too. Racism and homophobia are on that list. I have to share a planet with these people who want to destroy everything, who think other people are intrinsically less human and less deserving.

AU: Describe Terrorist crossing the US border...

FF: That was legendary. Everybody told us there was just no way and then boom....we had these shows out in California. So we mailed all our merch over and surreptitiously crossed the border. WE ARE THE WORST LIARS. I mean...they asked us what we were doing in the US and we said something like "driving up the coast", and clearly we were a band there to fuck shit up. We got away with it, which was really surprising. After that, it was all (vegan) Mexican food and visits to the botanical gardens. Oh, our friend Donna took us to a rare book exhibit in Pasadena where we were interviewed for Fine Books and CollectablesI shit you not.

AU: Fuck this city. Winnipeg in 5 words?

FF: Fuck the stupid Winnipeg Jets.

AU: Terrorist really sidesteps genres...

FF: Well Thank You! Yeah, we really do not like to be confined to "hardcore" or "punk". Although we all have our background in those genres, it can be creatively stifling. The genre bending just feels natural to us. It keeps the music interesting and that's what is fun about being in a band ...we just try to do the unexpected because it is fun. It also serves as our little "go fuck yourself" to the punk police.

AU: Hmmm let's take this interview in a political direction...how is working in the Winnipeg A-Zone?

FF: I feel really lucky to have that place in my life. It is a huge resource in our city and easily the best thing we have. I mean, it has taught me so much about activism and veganism, anarchism, etc. It was my point of contact with the real counter culture. Something that was a little bit more radical than a Casualties t-shirt. When I came to work there I was at a pretty dark place.

WRETCHED WINNIPEG

I felt so isolated. A political conscience can be a real drag.

You feel as if you don't belong anywhere and that nobody understands what's going on in your head.

The A-Zone was a place that let me know that people did understand and I wasn't alone in my frustrations about the world, our city.

AU: Talk about the creative / collaborative process?

FF: Terrorist is a collective, so when it comes to the music we all just kind of write riffs. There's no secret formula or anything, it is really organic. We just come up with our riffs and play them together for hours on end until we find something we think is cool. We record and produce all our own material. Completely DIY in that regard.

Death Culture Economy was a bit more cut-and-paste in the sense that most of those songs were written in studio by Colin and I.

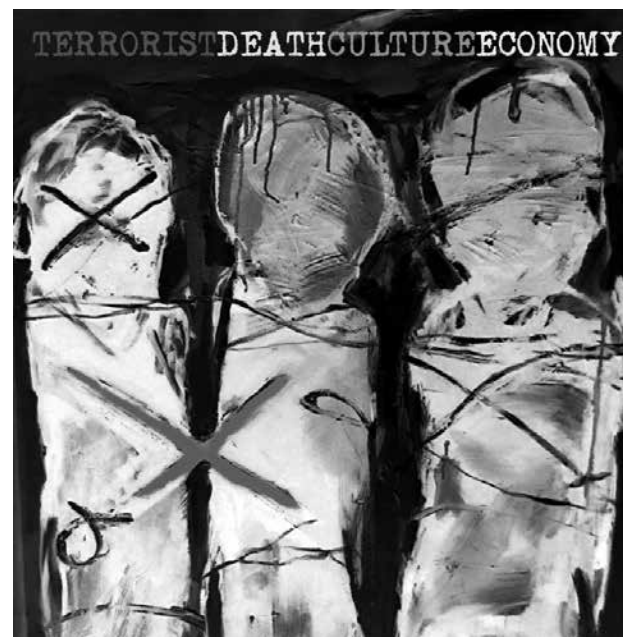
AU: How does this set of songs compare to the last 7"?

FF: They are better! No, just different. The 7" was just a kind of homage to traditional 80s hardcore. Just fast and straightforward. ...Death Culture Economy is a lot more mature and a lot more serious. We really came into our own. It's closer to some kind of vision, that's for sure. What that is, I'm not sure.

AU: Recommend a terrorist tactic (for the kids at home)...

FF: Read a book. Really, that sounds corny but

read a real book. Something you can't download and something that isn't pulp vampire fiction. I mean, how you can imagine anything when the images are always provided for you? Adrian Brody said that in this movie...so I can't take



credit for that quote, but it is true. Imagination is so important. To be able to think on your own is essential. Books are tools for intellectual self-defence. Being dumb is not cool. So read a book- they have neat ideas in them! Check out Mondragon! They got lots of books...or AK Press, but if you have some anarchist book store in your neck of the woods....go there.

Check Terrorist out online at:

<http://www.myspace.com/terroristmusic>

WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE ARTS IN VICTORIA.

artsvictoria.ca
VICTORIA'S ARTS COMMUNITY ONLINE

Arts Calendar

Directory & Map of Arts and Cultural Organizations

Arts Announcements System

LIVE VICTORIA.COM

Comprehensive Live Music Listings
shared with ArtsVictoria.ca

Artist Info and Audio

Forum: Gear Buy & Sell, Seeking Musicians

PosterLoop
Live Community Event Digital Sign Network

Event Posters on 65+ digital poster screens in prime locations around town

Daily "On Today" Arts & Music slides generated from LiveVictoria.com & ArtsVictoria.ca

WWW.ARTSVICTORIA.CA • WWW.LIVEVICTORIA.COM • WWW.POSTERLOOP.COM

listen: thezone.fm/punk
like: facebook.com/punkshow
follow: twitter.com/thepunkshow

THE PUNK SHOW
ON THE ZONE @ 91-3
WITH JASON LAMB

HAPPY 420!



WWW.WILDPLANETMUSIC.COM

217 OSBORNE STREET PH: 204-956-4400

BUYING OR SELLING A HOME
SHOULD BE A STRESS FREE EXPERIENCE.
LET ME DO ALL THE HARD WORK FOR YOU BY:

- * RESEARCHING HOMES IN YOUR SEARCH OR SALE AREA *
- * SENDING YOU LISTINGS THAT FIT YOUR SEARCH CRITERIA *
- * TAKING YOU TO VIEW HOMES *
- * DOING OPEN HOUSES & ADVERTISING YOUR HOME *
- * PREPARING ALL CONTRACTS & NEGOTIATING THE SALE FOR YOU *

CALL OR EMAIL ME
TODAY TO START MAKING
A POSITIVE CHANGE IN
YOUR LIVING SITUATION

MENTION THIS AD
AT TIME OF PURCHASE OR SALE
& RECEIVE 2 FREE HOURS OF
TATTOOING FROM URGE STUDIOS

CASSIE KANGAS



Your Alternative Realtor
cmkangas@dfh.ca



DFH Real Estate Limited
3914 Shelbourne Street
Victoria, BC V8P 4J1



Cassie Kangas
250-477-7291

(BECOME A FAN MY FACEBOOK PAGE, CASSIE KANGAS DFH REAL ESTATE FOR REAL ESTATE INFO AND UPDATES)

Marc Emery's
CANNABIS CULTURE
CCHQ
HEADQUARTERS

307
WEST HASTINGS
VANCOUVER
CANADA

HUGE SELECTION!
PIPES, BONGS, VAPORIZERS,
ROLLING PAPERS, SCALES,
BUBBLE BAGS, GRINDERS,
GROW BOOKS & APPAREL

WWW.CANNABISCULTURE.COM



604-682-1172



SHRED SESSION



Luke Connor

By Matt Gordon

Absolute Underground: What was it like the first time you stepped on a skateboard? What made you want keep skating?

Luke Connor: I can't remember too well. I was 4 or 5 in Australia, my dad bought me and my brother a skateboard, so we used to go to this mini-pipe down the road and bum-board back and forth. It was just so easy to go out and skate when I wanted and a lot of fun, of course. The addiction eventually weaseled its way into my life.



AU: Haha, once it's in your blood it doesn't come out. What trick has been feeling good lately?

LC: Switch frontside flips have been treating me well lately, and switch front noses.

AU: Whereabouts have you been skating lately?

LC: A fair bit of the Dub [Vic West Skatepark], actually. Skate time can be scarce throughout winter so when I only have an hour or two and the park's dry, I'll skate there. Street skating has still been happening, just at larger intervals than I'd like, but the weather and time only allow so much.

AU: What's the most memorable bail you've had? Was it a head injury? If it was, I won't fault you for forgetting because helmets are for pussies.

LC: I'd say breaking my collarbone last summer bombing the hill outside my house switch and getting speed wobbles at the bottom. I'd never broken a bone before, so for my collarbone to end up in 4 pieces was definitely a first. 9 screws later, it's as good as she'll get.

AU: I'm a fan, but can you explain what YGT is and why it's so rad for the island scene?

LC: YGT (yougottthat.ca) is a joint effort between myself and Leo Graceffo, with the occasional

contributions from other skate media cats based out of Vancouver Island and abroad. The blog is good for the Victoria/VI skate scene because there is so much talent on the island which hasn't received the recognition it's been deserving, so having an outlet to showcase what we have will help put our scene on the map more. The past couple years Victoria has been making plenty of appearances in the magazines, which has been super sick.

For more information on YGT, check them out online at www.yougottthat.ca

Luke Connor can be found online at <http://lukeconnormedia.wordpress.com/>

FIST CITY

Interview by Joseph Leroux



Before I speak with Lethbridge-based punk outfit Fist City, I decide to make an ass of myself. In the back of a packed Talk's Cheap Records/Cavity Curiosity Shop in Victoria B.C., a dialogue of sharp feedback between a bass amp and mic runs through synth-punk band Teledrome's set like a dial tone doing falsetto. I chat with the guitar player about it.

"Man, that feedback was nasty."

"I like feedback"

"It can be cool, but it was overwhelming."

"Well, thanks for your feedback."

Interpreting this as code for "I hate you, now go away," I do. As Fist City's set begins, I learn that the charming punster from earlier is also Evan Van Reekum, Fist City guitarist, and a man I'm set to interview in 45 minutes.

Thankfully, nothing is as endearing as failure and so after a blistering set of new-wave influenced punk numbers that threatened to punch out the floor of the tiny venue, we step outside and talk about odd origins, Europe, the Devil and death. Van Reekum even apologises, being the gent that he is. In hindsight, it was a fabulous pun.

Absolute Underground: What's the relation between the band and the Loretta Lynn song of the same name?

Evan Van Reekum: It's a coincidence. I originally wanted to call the band something different. It

was a terrible name... "Ticks." A reference to Tourette's syndrome.

Ryan Grieve (Drums): I just learned that for the first time.

AU: Your newer records are coming out on European and German Labels. What is the reason for that?

EVR: We're going to go tour Europe in May. We want to have something to support going over there.

Kier Griffiths (Vocals/Guitar): We wanna keep moving. Just do something different, see how far we can go, have a bunch of fun.

AU: Talk about the live cover tape that you guys are planning on doing.

EVR: There's a Cramps record called Songs the Lord Taught Us, and we love The Cramps so we decided to do this tape called 'Songs the Master Taught Us.' The master is what Lindsay calls marijuana. She calls it 'worshipping the master.' And we played the show, but there were some technical difficulties that prevented us from releasing it.

RG: You have to obey the master.

AU: What's the best rumour you've heard about yourself?

KG: That we're "devil-worshipping reptilian hermaphrodites." Colin Askey made a video for the song "Debbie Get YR Boa" and it was on The Wedge on MuchMusic and this forum started up, looking at all the cryptic bits and decided it was channeling a satanic message. A friend of ours jumped on the board and lit a fire under it. It was an honour.

EVR: They thought we were trying to possess them from the television.

Lindsay Munroe (Bass/Vocals): I watched a two-hour YouTube thing on Satan in popular music. It was quite intense.

EVR: And there were no satanic messages intended in the video at all; my friend Colin is just a bit of a weirdo. He's a filmmaker in Vancouver. He just does weird things, all the time.

KG: I'm gonna say it was satanic, to fuel the fire.

AU: You've recorded a lot of records and EPs over a very short period of time. What kind of song writing process supports this?

RG: Generally it's either Kier or Evan that come up with a riff or idea, and we all sort of collaborate on the different parts, but the definite structure comes from either one of them and there are definitely Kier's songs and Evan's songs and you can tell the difference in styles -but they blend really nicely together. And then we all hash it out in a room for a few hours and that's how it comes about.

AU: What are said differences in style?

KG: I think that I have a way more mellow jangly weirdness, and Evan has a much catchier, rip-roarin', angular...

EVR: There was a review recently that compared our band to the Spin Doctors. It was horrible. They had that song like "Two princes, buh, na du, na duh, na..."

RG: "Just go ahead, if you want to call me baby." Yeah, that's the one.

AU: What will be your last words before you die?

EVR: Let's rip it up.

RG: I'm fucking 'dorfed man.

LM: Let's party.

KG: Let's get wet.

For more information, check out fistcity.bandcamp.com/

ATTENTION TATTOO ARTISTS

LOOKING FOR
FULL TIME
PROFESSIONAL
TATTOO ARTIST TO
JOIN OUR TEAM
HERE IN THE
BEAUTIFUL
OKANAGAN
VALLEY. IF
YOU'RE
INTERESTED
PLEASE SEND
YOUR PORTFOLIO
TO JESSY AT:
tattooshop@live.ca

SUNCITY TATTOOS & BODY PIERCING INC.

EST.
1995
PENTICTON




QUALITY
Custom Tattoos
AWARD WINNING ARTISTS
BODY PIERCING

CHECK US OUT AT
WWW.SUNCITYTATTOOS.COM
364 MAIN STREET, PENTICTON, BC
TATTOOSHOP@LIVE.CA

BLANK GENERATION

Body Piercing and Tattoos
609 Johnson st. in Victoria B.C.
250-480-5260

We have a Female AND Male
Body Piercers available.
One of a kind custom tattoo designs.
We specialize in custom and large gauge, Dermal
anchoring and surface piercings.
With a selection of Organic and large gauge jewelry.



Floyd's Diner

Elvis
may have been
The King
of rock'n'roll,
but I am
The Queen.

ALL-DAY BREAKFAST

866 Yates Street, Victoria BC 250-381-5114
The New Floyd's Westshore location
101-721 Station Ave- (778) 440-1200



Weird Al Yankovic

Interview by Matt Gordon

AU: Is this weird Al?

Al Yankovic: Yes.

AU: It's an honor to meet you, sir.

Al Yankovic: Oh well, you as well, thank you.

AU: I'm a stand up comedian. I think you're the best. I'm totally star-struck right now.

Al Yankovic: Oh, well, thank you I guess, thank you.

AU: You made "Addicted to Spuds" the year I was born, was that commentary on the North American diet?

Al Yankovic: You can read whatever commentary you want from that. People read all sorts of political messages and social commentary from my songs when actually I'm just trying to be goofy and make a cheap joke. I don't think I was going for any astute commentary on American lifestyle, but if you want to put one in there, feel free.

AU: How do you decide which songs you want to parody?

Al Yankovic: There's no real logic to it, I listen to the radio, I listen to stuff online, I try to determine what the big hit songs are; the songs that are making an impact on the zeitgeist. Then I look at those songs and think of a variations on a theme, I try to think of puns, I try to think of any direction I could go to make them funny. A lot of times I come up empty handed. I don't want to force a parody, it sounds forced if you do that. Every now and then all the planets line up and I'll be able to come up with a funny idea for a popular song and get it out in timely fashion, but it always seems like a small miracle when that happens.

AU: You've gotta keep it fun right?

Al Yankovic: Right.

AU: When I write jokes I make sure I'm enjoying it.

Al Yankovic: If it's not fun for you it probably won't be fun for anybody else.

AU: I've noticed when I step on stage if I'm having fun up there the audience really responds to that.

Al Yankovic: Of course yeah, I have a great time whenever I'm on stage, and I think it's contagious.

AU: Yeah, it is, isn't it? That's a good way to put it... Are there any artists you wouldn't parody?

Al Yankovic: Not really. If they didn't want me to parody them I wouldn't do it, but I don't think there's any artist too sacred, or beyond parody. I think there are some songs it might be in bad taste to parody, but people are people and I've certainly parodied a lot of artists who's work I respect greatly. But everybody deserves the Weird Al treatment at some point or another.

AU: Haha, it's true... Is it true that you weren't allowed to make eye contact with Prince at the American Music Awards?

Al Yankovic: That was what he requested; he or his people had sent me a telegram. This was a long time ago, in the 80s. I literally got a telegram saying I was not to establish eye contact with him. I don't think it was just me, it was everyone in his immediate vicinity got the same telegram, it was ridiculous. This was around the same time that Price brought his bodyguard on stage at award shows. Like Kenny Rogers is gonna rush out of the wings and sucker punch him. He's always been kind of a strange duck.

AU: What are you getting up to at the Calgary Comic and Entertainment Expo?

Al Yankovic: We're doing our live show, I think they have me doing some autograph and photo op sessions. That's about all I know at this point. I would love to be able to go out and see a bit of the con and meet some of the other people, but I've learned from experience it's hard for me to circulate. I get stopped every few feet, but as much as I can, I try to experience it.

AU: Any fake interviews on the horizon?

Al Yankovic: I would love to do more face-to-face interviews. It amuses me. I love doing those.

AU: You always lose me, for a moment I think it's real.

Al Yankovic: It's fun to read the YouTube comments from people that don't understand that it's a joke, and I was never in the room with these people, they think, "Why would Eminem say that!?"

AU: You get so absurd I don't see how you could not know it's a joke.

Al Yankovic: That's the thing with the Internet,

because no matter how broad and how ridiculous and how obviously it's a joke, somebody will not think it's a joke. It amazes me.

AU: That's the same with stand up comedy, as soon as you stand on that stage you're joking you don't ever need to say you're joking, and if you do you lose credibility.

Al Yankovic: I'm Weird Al, do you expect me to be serious about this? Really?

AU: Haha, That's exactly right, Weird is right in front of your name.

Al Yankovic: That should be the first clue; the adjective in front of my name should be a tip-off.

AU: What would you say if I said I have a tattoo of your entire body over my entire body?

Al Yankovic: I would say you're probably being inaccurate in your description.

AU: That's fair, I remember that from an Al TV years ago.

Al Yankovic: Oh, haha.

AU: Someone wrote in, telling you they had a tattoo of your body over theirs, and I thought it would be funny if I was that guy, because I am.

Al Yankovic: Oh, it's you! I've met a couple dozen people that had Weird Al tattoos, my face, me playing my accordion, I've autographed a lot of people on body parts and they had that permanently drilled into their body. It blows my mind that people want to make that a permanent part of their flesh.

AU: Yeah, haha, it would. So what's Craig Ferguson like? I saw your guys' interview, it was hilarious.

Al Yankovic: Craig is a great guy, I haven't met him outside of that one experience, but he was super fun, and we chatted for a little bit after the show. He's a great guy, I like him a lot personally and I hope to be back on his show sometime.

AU: You claimed in that interview you'd never sneezed, have you sneezed yet?

Al Yankovic: I'm saving it all up, waiting for the right time.

AU: Haha, sounds like a good plan... Was there any C.I.A. response from your song "Party in the C.I.A." from Alpocalypse?

Al Yankovic: You know, I met a couple guys from the C.I.A., they love that song over there; they're blasting that song. They sent me some shirts, I've got official C.I.A. shirts and hats. The people in the C.I.A., at least the people that I'm aware of, really dug that song.

AU: That's amazing, I would have thought the opposite.

Al Yankovic: No, apparently they have a good sense of humour over there.



AU: It was awesome talking to you, thanks so much for the interview, Al.

Al Yankovic: My pleasure, thank you. We'll keep in touch.

AU: You're so awesome Al, I love you.

Al Yankovic: Haha, you too, take care man.

For more information, check out:

www.weirdal.com/



2915 Douglas St. Victoria BC
Hours 7AM to 4PM 250-382-5111



Preparing for a Convention

By Don McCaskill

When attending a comic/gaming/anime/sci-fi convention like the Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo, it's a good idea to make some plans in advance. Conventions like these are busy with multiple tracks of events happening at the same time. Therefore you need to prioritize who and what you want to see, how you are going to get to where you need to be, and when you need to be there.

Buy passes early; the discounted price is just one reason. Faster badge pickup and therefore a shorter time in line means quicker access to the Con. You should buy a pass for the whole convention, even if you can only attend two of three days. The cost of two days is usually the same if not more than a three day pass, and something might change that gives you the option to attend that third day. No need to shell out extra money if that happens.

What guests do you want to see, and how do you want to see them? Do you want to see Richard Dean Anderson of McGyver and Stargate fame, or is it more important to see wildly flamboyant John Barrowman from Doctor Who and Arrow? You'll need to check your program book from registration to see where they're going to be. A panel may be the perfect opportunity to ask them a question, or an autograph session may give you a chance just to

say "Hi!" In either case, you'll want to line up early for the best opportunities. With 60,000 other fans in attendance, you'll want to leave little to nothing to chance. The same goes for other events. Photo ops insist that you are early and pre-registered, panels and special events may have massive lines to get into limited seating, so the earlier you're there, the better.

Something else to plan for is what to wear. This is a geek fest. While jeans and a T-shirt are acceptable, why not go whole hog? Conventions are full of Cosplayers; people dressed in costumes, playing the role of their favorite characters, so why not join them? You can't show up at work dressed as Luke or Leia, or the Dread Pirate Roberts, but you *can* go to a convention as such. Thousands of others will be. Maybe you'll be inspired to enter the Costume Contest and win a prize.

Overall, plan to be amazed. The celebrities and panels are a only small part of the convention experience. The Cosplayers can go to great lengths to make incredible costumes and accessories. The exhibitors will try to wow you also, as all of them will be vying for your attention and dollars.



Don McCaskill has been a photojournalist for over 25 years. His NightShadows Photography focus is on Models and Cosplayers. Don McCaskill has been a photojournalist for over 25 years. His NightShadows Photography focus is on models and Cosplayers. Check out more of his photography at <http://nightshadows.ca/Cosplay>



**McNeill
Heating Ltd**

energy saving solutions

**"We've been a trusted name in
Victoria for over 50 years"**

Furnaces & Boilers
Hot Water Heaters
Repair & Installation
Scheduled Maintenance

**Mark McNeill
250-361-8424**



COMING SOON!
Split EP
Death by Stereo
& SNFU

**CRUZAR
MEDIA**

LIMITED EDITION
SKULL SKATE DECK
Online pre-order (only 25
available), ships by May 20th



SNFU on LP, T-shirts and
Chi Pig documentary DVD
available at
www.cruzarmedia.com



WATCH FOR THE FIRST NEW SNFU
RECORDING IN TEN YEARS

"Never Trouble Trouble till
Trouble Troubles you."



**CRUZAR
MEDIA**

Stock up on the Cruzar Media &
swag at the Calgary Comic Expo!
Find us at the Absolute
Underground table!

**Look for GWAR on itunes
ALL CDs at CRUZARMEDIA.COM**



A Study of Cosplay

By Don McCaskill

Cosplay, coined from the phrase "costume role-play", is the most visually defining aspect of any Comic Book/Gaming/Anime convention. It's a lot more than putting on a pair of tights and donning a cape. There are some very serious cosplayers out there who love doing what they do.

To start, they research the source material, whether it be comics, movies, anime or games. They create a resource list, and head off to the nearest Gala Fabrics or Fabricland for materials and notions. A superhero in a spandex costume

can take up to 5 meters of fabric just for the bodysuit, and another 2 for a cape. Add a skirt for Supergirl or gloves and mask for Batman and at \$20 per metre, this can really add up.

Hours are then spent adapting various patterns to make the costume, cutting, sewing, fitting and starting again when some aspect doesn't work.

While there are male cosplayers, they are not in the majority; only 20%. So when a group needs a male character, what are they to do? Gender-switching is the answer, and it has two aspects. First is the act of switching the gender; imagine the male-dominant cast of Star Trek as all female. The second version is the female dressing as a male. You would think that this would be hard to pass off, but some girls even bind their chests with tensor bandages to achieve the flat-chested male form.

While a long brown jacket and black-haired wig with beaded dreads may give you the look of Jack Sparrow (Pirates of the Caribbean), it's the swagger, vocal slur and knowing the character inside and out that will sell it. The role-playing is the finishing touch to 'being' the character. So in reality, cosplaying is a performance art, complete with costume, make-up, hair, props and a stage. Though in this case, the stage is the entire grounds of the event.

On that stage, there are always people recording the action, whether it's a photographer getting great shots in the perfect setting, or friends recording a CMV (Cosplay Music Video). YouTube is full of cosplayers singing to their favorite tunes, and new cosplay photo sites seem to pop-up daily. Cosplayers of the Week (cosplayweek.blogspot.com), features top cosplayers and videos every week.

Beyond the fun of being a character from your favourite source material, where is the reward in cosplaying? Mostly in the recognition of your peers and sometimes costume contests. Awards given in a competition range from simple ribbons to merchandise or sometimes money. The biggest cosplay contest takes place every summer at

the San Diego Comic Con, where top prizes can be merchandise and hundreds of dollars. In most cases, the award doesn't cover costs of materials, let alone the time involved, so it really is something one does for the love of it.

Cosplaying appeals to nearly all ages, but at Victoria's Tsukino-Con with last year's crowd of 1450 people, the average male was 19, while the average female was 16. To see cosplaying in action and to check out other Geek Culture activities, look up your local anime convention. In Victoria, it's the Tsukino-Con from February 22-24; in Vancouver the big one is Anime Evolution in the summer, while Edmonton has Animethon from August 9-11, Calgary has Otafest Aurora May 17-19 and Winnipeg's Ai-Kon takes place July 12-14. More events can be found online at AnimeCons.com



Don McCaskill has been a photojournalist for over 25 years. His NightShadows Photography focus is on models and Cosplayers. Check out more of his photography at <http://nightshadows.ca/Cosplay>

Don't buy gas
Smoke grass
Use your ass

fix your own bike

Recyclistas
COMMUNITY BIKE SHOP

25 Crease Ave (on the Galloping Goose trail)
Victoria, BC (250) 418-8867
www.recyclistas.ca

READ THE MAGAZINE, WATCH THE SHOW

U ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

Visit us at the Calgary Comic Expo!

meet funk'n TRON from FUBAR. Saturday Apr 27. 5:00 pm
at the AU Table, grab some AU & Zombie Jesus swag.
then stick around for an exclusive rap performance by BLIST

Solar Panels - Controllers
Pure Sine Wave Inverters
and Batteries

RV - Cottage - Residential
Business - Agricultural
Off-Grid and Grid-Tie Systems

Ph. 250-246-4305
www.WeGoSolar.com



Slumlord

"Your mosh is past due & they're here to collect"

By Pauly Hardcore

Edmonton, Alberta's Slumlord are purveyors of angry, pissed-off hardcore, with an extra emphasis on the rage. In the short time since forming, they have trekked across Canada and forged quite a reputation for leaving a path of (mostly) figurative destruction by way of mosh pit-induced chaos. Catching up with the band on the tail-end of a tour that took them from Victoria to New Brunswick, tour manager Cam Birchill gets us the inside scoop on what has been transpiring along the way.

AU: Who are you and what do you play?

Slumlord: Phil and I play guitar.

AU: You're currently on a cross-Canada tour with Fall City Fall and Three Crowns on the Eastern dates, how's that going?

SL: Tour has been a blast. Really fortunate to be out with our best buddies in Fall City Fall and

getting to know all the Three Crowns guys has been great. Shows have all been awesome in individual ways, be it crazy turn outs or just kids who really give a shit and were stoked to be there.

AU: What's been your favourite show so far?

SL: Edmonton and Calgary are always awesome. Tons of people that are into it and the support is unlike anywhere else I've seen. All the Quebec shows were particularly violent - those stand out for sure.

AU: What are your thoughts on the Canadian touring scene? Any advice to younger bands who want to hit the road?

SL: Canada is great - but certainly has its disadvantages,

the largest one in the West is the distance you have to travel to get to the next viable market. Best advice I have for bands wanting to get out there is start with weekend warrior stuff. Instead of going to the bar and getting shitty with your friends, use that money to hop in two cars or whatever you have to if you don't have a van, and head out to play outside of your hometown. Expecting guarantees without putting any self-promotion in first is ridiculous. Facebook is not the only means of self-promotion. Travel out-of-pocket and actually meet kids who go to shows - instead of getting kids to click like on your page and never seeing them again. Work your ass off to develop a product worthy of someone's money - everything is a blessing and you are not entitled to shit.

AU: You've been a band for just over a year and have accomplished a lot already, releasing an album, touring Canada multiple times and a quick run in the States, what can you hope for the next year to come?

SL: The end of this tour actually marks our one year together as a band. We have a three-song EP coming out in June and a tour with our homies in Kennedy from Quebec, and The Man and His Machine from Saskatchewan in September. Past that - continuing to write songs for a full-length release and trying to push into the States in 2014.

AU: You just released a music video for your new single "Authorize/Deny", which was held in a basement in Edmonton and the infamous SIOC. How's the response been to the video?

SL: A lot less controversial than I had expected - not entirely sure what that's indicative of. A lot of people say stuff about "SIOC is like that only when the cameras are rolling... yadda yadda yadda" - dudes have always been that way since I first met them in 2006, there was just a lot less of them then. All things aside though, we feel this is our best material we have released, and that Ben Butcholtz did an amazing job filming and editing.

AU: You're set to release your next EP, "Kingpin Rules", this year, can you give us any info on that?

SL: Look for the 7-inch vinyl available in June as we hit the road with Exalt to support it coming out. As always - the music is available as a free download off our Bandcamp, we just hope that the fans of our music will donate their hard-earned money to get it so we're able to keep creating new music for them to enjoy.

AU: To you, what would be a perfect

HARDCORE ALLEY

tour for you to be on?

SL: Any tour - it's a blessing to go out and have kids pay their money to come watch you perform, and grab T-shirts and scream the words back. To have promoters believe enough in your music that they'll pony up to get you to play their town. The fact that any of it happens is not lost on any of us. We are well aware that without it, we'd be stuck in our basement doing it for no-one. We play music for ourselves, but we can do the grind because of the kids and that's why we do it - for the kids.

AU: Any last comments?

SL: Thanks to Absolute Underground for taking the time out for this interview and to any of you who have read it. Hope to see you at a show sometime.

For more information about Slumlord, check them out online at:

www.facebook.com/Slumlord780

Free Album Downloads: slumlord780.bandcamp.com/





URGE STUDIOS
CUSTOM TATTOOING & BODY PIERCING
1026 COOK ST. VICTORIA BC
250~380~2989

Now Booking For Spring Season



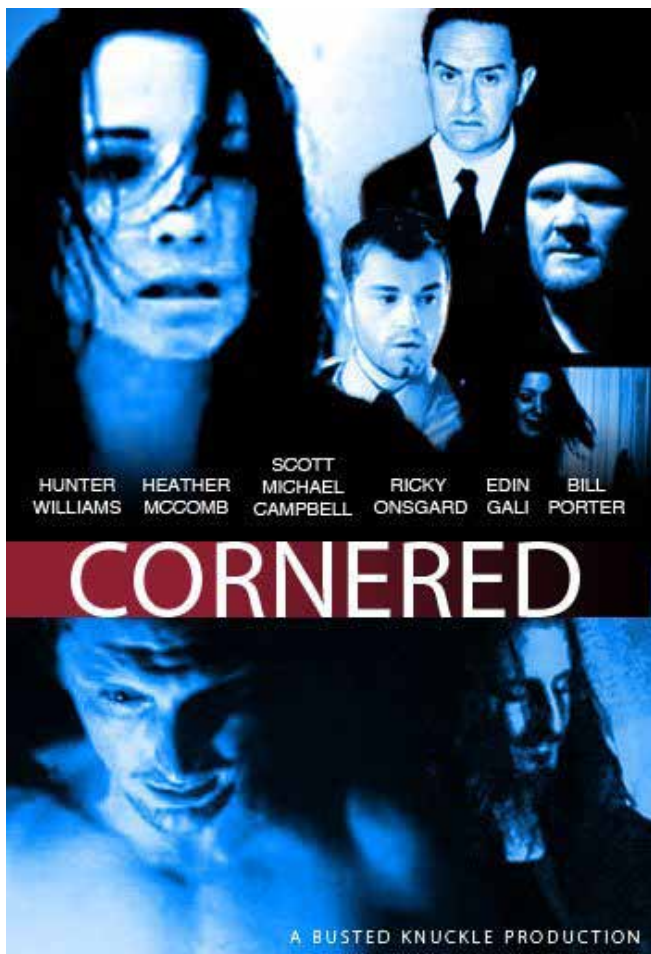
Hansom Jeff Martin
www.URGETATTOOS.com

**OLD NICK'S
EMPORIUM
&
SCREENPRINTING**



**639 Johnson St.
Victoria BC V8W 1M7
tshirts@oldnicks.com**

**Tel: 250.382.6423
Fax: 250.382.6403
www.oldnicks.com**



Hunter G. Williams: An Interview with a Horror Director

Interview by Michael Allen

Busted Knuckle Productions is a Los Angeles-based film production firm. This production house has developed several horror features, some of which will be released in 2013.

Busted Knuckle Productions is led by CEO Hunter G. Williams and his associates: actor Scott Michael Campbell and business partner Chris Hayes. In this interview, Michael Allen talks with Hunter about his upcoming supernatural thriller *The Whispering Dead*, the serial killer horror flick *Cornered* and several other exciting film and television projects.

Absolute Underground: Hunter, I know you primarily from your work in film. I recently reviewed *The Whispering Dead* for my site, 28DLA.com...This film was a bit of a mind-bender. The film's story follows several co-workers attempting to jumpstart a reality television series. You were the director and writer for this film so I had a question: what influences did you and co-writer Scott Michael Campbell take into the script?

Hunter G. Williams: We definitely were influenced by other successful films of the genre. The *Blair Witch Project*, *Paranormal Activity*, and *Quarantine* helped us mold the film's story. We also spent countless hours watching the real shows: *Ghost Adventures*, *Ghost Hunters*, and *Paranormal State*.

When I cast Chris Hayes, I made him watch *Ghost*

Adventures over and over, since his character was based off of Zach from the show. He is a guy who wants to believe anything is a sign of paranormal activity.

I also wanted TWD to be different from other horror films, especially in the performances. In most films, the downtime between the thrills and scares is too long. Usually, these films have terrible acting that makes you want to rinse your mouth out with buckshot. I want audiences to be entertained by the juicy stuff, the character development and the performances from our actors. Chris, Becka Adams, Jeff Stearns and everyone else knocked it out of the park on this one.

AU: I am also familiar with your horror feature, *Cornered*. You completed this one in Agoura, California in 2011 and 2012. I have not seen this film, but I know the basic premise from the film's trailer and synopsis. Actor Ricky Onsgard plays The Stranger, the villain in the film. He breaks into several women's homes and torments them with a series of traps, which

are often deadly and sinister. What are this character's motivations to create this style of

terror?

HG: We shot *Cornered* in Agoura Hills, Studio City, Downtown Los Angeles, Woodland Hills, Van Nuys, and North Hollywood. These were some great locations.

The character of The Stranger was originally developed as an ex-special forces op. He is the elite of the elite. As background, he was chosen for an experimental program in the ongoing hopes of creating a super-soldier. The experiment backfires. All of the test subjects begin to experience mental breakdowns and psychotic episodes. The scientists decide to shut the program down and all of the subjects are to be committed. Only The Stranger has other plans. He is driven by his feelings of superiority. He chooses strong, independent women to play his deadly games with. He is a Jason Bourne character, with serious mental issues.

AU: You have a number of film and television projects in development. Can you talk about your upcoming television series, *Pyro*? You also have an action thriller in early production, titled *Killing Angels*. What can you tell us of this next film?

HW: We have numerous projects in production or

ABSOLUTE HORROR



development. *Pyro* is a series that I believe will do very well. It is a mix between *Dexter* and *Rescue Me*. It has all of the ingredients for a great series: drama, action, tragedy, mystery. And, as the title explains, there are plenty of fires!

Also, we are in development on our explosive action thriller *Killing Angels*, which deals with revenge and the shady underworld of human trafficking. This film is near completion.

Check out Hunter soon in his first major release, *The Whispering Dead*, and online at:
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Hunter-G-Williams>

Hey DoDo Head!!
Mr. Plow released a new CD and it's the tits!!! Get your hands on it pronto



Mr. Plow
Songs In The Key Of A.D.D.
Featuring the songs "Fuck Your Face" and "Stink Stank Stunk" and "Glory Hole" and many more!!!

Brought to you by Plow Records and Absolute Underground Records





SALT SPRING

ISLAND ALES

Damn tasty beer.

www.saltspringislandales.com



SKULLIANS

Andrew Stewart catches up with Candice Ryerson, lead guitarist of the Toronto-based punk group Skullians.

Absolute Underground: Who are the Skullians, how long have you been going and how did you guys get together?

Candice Ryerson: The band was formed in March 2005 by Evan and Mike...They found Andy, who ended up being the full time drummer for five years. Three years into that, I joined as lead guitar and back-up vocals - then two years after that, Andy left the band to pursue other projects. A week after Andy left, I found Greg (who had come to a Skullians show about a year prior), and the rest is history! The band has been around for seven years total, but we've been...promoting aggressively, playing shows constantly, etc. for about four of those seven years.

AU: What are your influences and how would you describe your sound?

CR: My personal influences vary from Bad Religion all the way over to Nine Inch Nails. Most of my songwriting influences are punk bands like BR, Pennywise and Rancid, but the music that's "in my

heart" is all from the 1990s.

The sound of the band as a whole has changed slightly over the years, now we have three major songwriters in the band, and three lead vocalists as well - which we've been told separates us from the rest of the punk bands out there right now. But there is a "Skullians sound" I guess, fast-paced punk rock with a whole lot of heart!

AU: You guys have a new CD, wanna tell us about it?

CR: Sure! Its called "Don't Take it to Heart". 13 songs total, and we've officially broken into "real album" territory, haha. The CD we put out before this was called "Pure" and was recorded over a period of three days - so the first major difference between "Pure" and the new one is the time it took to record. The songs are longer, more complex and there's a whole whack of samples we added in between songs, which I find really tells a story... Also, for anyone who was wondering where the name "Skullians" came from, listen to Track 1 - and you'll get your answer!

AU: What is the most fucked up thing that's happened at a Skullians show?

CR: This one took some thought, but I narrowed it down to three major incidents:

The first, we were at Lee's Palace playing with Subhumans, and literally five minutes before we were on, Mike slashed his finger open. Evan and Mike were in the bathroom for quite a while cleaning up puddles of blood and duct taping his finger shut so he could play.

The second hilarious incident was when a very fucked up woman attacked Mike's girlfriend outside of Hard Luck bar, and I may or may not have unleashed the awesome power of Candice and put her to the ground... the boys wouldn't let me live it down for months after, Evan even said he was going to write a song called "Fisticuffs".

The third happened quite recently when we were on tour. Evan was arrested and taken into custody by the Windsor Police for looking like a guy who had stabbed and robbed a bunch of people. It was actually really fucked up...That night me/Mike/Greg had to play a set without him in Windsor due to him being in jail. Cops suck.

AU: Who writes the tunes?

CR: We all do. Usually it starts with one person bringing a riff, and we all collaborate on it to make it into a full song. Other times one of us will write a full-blown song and we'll all learn it but add in our own little "pizzaz" to make it personal. I've heard stories from other bands where one person writes all of the music - and in my opinion that sounds like a total nightmare! Music is supposed to be about being creative and free to say and play whatever you want, and we really do have that in Skullians.

AU: What are your touring plans, and where have you toured so far?

CR: We actually just got back from an Ontario/Quebec tour. We managed to play 14 shows over the course of 13 days, so needless to say we were downright exhausted by the end of it... All in all it was a massive success; we made a lot of new friends and fans, peddled our new CD around, the van didn't break down, and we didn't kill each other!

We have major tour plans for the future as

TORONTO TRASH

well. We've made contacts in the USA so that's one option, and our UK record label (STP Records) has mentioned that we should try to get on Rebellion Fest 2013... The world is a punk rock oyster, my friend.

For more information or to hear some tunes, check Skullians out online at:

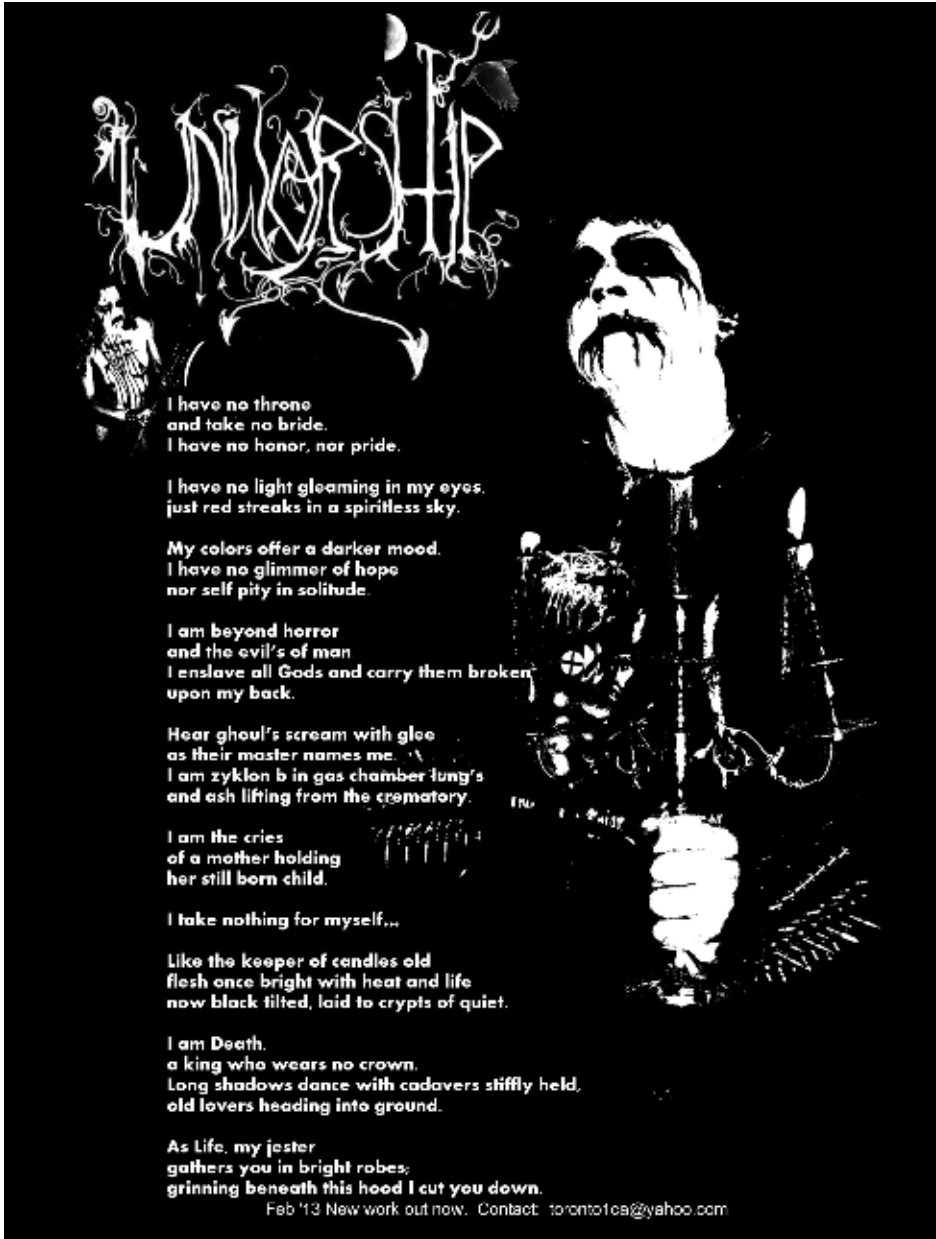
Facebook: www.facebook.com/skullians

YouTube: www.youtube.com/skullianstorontopunx

iTunes: <http://itunes.apple.com/ca/album/dont-take-it-to-heart/id543938110>

BandCamp: <http://skullians.bandcamp.com/>





I have no throne
and take no bride.
I have no honor, nor pride.

I have no light gleaming in my eyes.
just red streaks in a spiritless sky.

My colors offer a darker mood.
I have no glimmer of hope
nor self pity in solitude.

I am beyond horror
and the evil's of man
I enslave all Gods and carry them broken
upon my back.

Hear ghoul's scream with glee
as their master names me.
I am zyklon b in gas chamber lung's
and ash lifting from the crematory.

I am the cries
of a mother holding
her still born child.

I take nothing for myself...

Like the keeper of candles old
flesh once bright with heat and life
now black tilted, laid to crypts of quiet.

I am Death.
a king who wears no crown.
Long shadows dance with cadavers stiffly held,
old lovers heading into ground.

As Life, my jester
gathers you in bright robes;
grinning beneath this hood I cut you down.

Feb '13 New work out now. Contact: torontofes@yahoo.com



SEASON 4 EPISODE 3
Now ONLINE

FEATURING

SHRED SESSION: MATT HOWELL
D.O.A. INTERVIEW WITH JOE KIETHLEY
INK SLINGERS: LORI FLETCHER
WEST COAST REPORT: MOUNT CAIN

ABSOLUTEUNDERGROUND.TV



Orchid's Curse

Interview by Catastrophe C

Absolute Underground: Tell me about the band! How did it all come about? How long have you been at it?

Orchid's Curse: We won't bore you with long-winded stories of struggles, tribulations and member changes because well, that's what happens with bands. Orchid's Curse has been active for about 7 years, the past 3 with our

current line-up.

AU: Describe your sound in 25 words or less.

Bobby [Webb - Drums]: Bad-breaf, clementines, cigarette-butts, Will Smith

Brian [Jones - Guitar]: That scene from Scanners.

Kevin [Mombourquette - Bass]: The sound of five people that hate each



other but have to hang out anyway.

Josh [Hogan - Vocals]: Peanut butter whiskey cookies

Keith [MacLeod - Guitar]: Scrumtrulescent

AU: What do you guys listen to? What influences your sound?

Josh: As a band we all have a pretty diverse listening base – anything from punk to metal to old-school hip-hop and pretty much everything in between. I think our diversity comes across in some of our songwriting for sure – even if it's through metal music.

AU: Any artists or genres that make you want to gouge your eyeballs out?

OC: Definitely, but normally we just try not to listen to shitty music. Also people that feel the need to overly define genres like “Melodic-Prog- Thrash-Death-Crust-Core” make us want gouge their eyes out! It's called fucking METAL!

AU: Hah yeah, I couldn't agree more. Death to labels! Congrats are in order, on your new album, Words... Tell the people what it's like, compared to your previous release.

OC: More mature, focused, and heavy. Also this album was done more professionally - in a nice studio (Codapop) with an engineer (Erien Eady-Ward) and a producer (Jason Vautour) and then sent off to be mixed by Shaun Thingvold in Vancouver and mastered in the USA by Jamie King. Definitely the most time, effort and energy we have put into a release yet, and we hope that shows.

AU: It totally does, the album is awesome. Would you say it has a theme?

Josh: Although it's not a concept album, Words was inspired heavily by disdain for organized religion and other convoluted, overly complex systems of convincing people to look externally for answers instead of within one's self.

AU: What's the story behind the cover art?

Keith: The cover art was mainly inspired by the lyrics. I wanted to show the duality between servants – serving out of love, but also out of fear. The lyrics are dark, but there is also a feeling a hope and prosperity. The main artistic style is based on old religious wood cuts. I felt this imagery really reflects the overall tone of the music's lyrical content.

AU: You've got a tour planned for eastern and central Canada. What's the best / worst thing about being on the road?

Brian: When you have to poop in a strange bathroom

Everyone Else: Dealing with Brian because he doesn't like pooping in strange bathrooms

AU: What's on your bucket list as a band? Any artists you'd love to share a bill with or places you're dying to play?

OC: We've been really lucky to share the stage already with some of our influences like Children of Bodom, Black Dahlia Murder, Cancer Bats, etc... If we can act spoiled, here are a few other acts we'd love to share the stage with:

Keith: Dillinger Escape Plan

Brian: Darkest Hour

Bobby: Motorhead

Josh: Between the Buried and Me

As for places – Kevin says he'd like to play underwater.

AU: Famous last Words?

Everyone: Check out the new album, Words!

Josh: Keep fit and have fun

Bobby: Who the fuck is Shirley Diggers?

The new Orchid's Curse album on Diminished Fifth Records is available March 26th. Buy it online at:

<http://www.diminishedfifthrecords.com/merchandise>

or find the band:

online <http://orchidscurse.wordpress.com/>

<http://orchidscurse.bandcamp.com/>

on Twitter @OrchidsCurse

on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/orchidscurse>

IGNITE Smoke Shop *Light it up*

Vaporizers, glass, & more..
IGNITE
 Smoke Shop *Light it up*

APR 19-21
2 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

EVENT

HUGE SAVINGS, PRIZES, GIVEAWAYS!



109 W CORDOVA ST.
778-786-0977
ignitesmokeshop.ca

Medical May - May 1-31
Med cards 20% Off - 15% Otherwise

JUDAS
 Judas Clothing
 @EBAY.co.uk
 theonlyfatboy
 Steampunk/
 Victorian
 Gothic/Punk/
 Rock
 Clothing and
 Accessories



SAT. JULY 13 RICKSHAW THEATRE ⚡ VANCOUVER, BC

A NIGHT OF EPIC COVER BANDS BY HOMETOWN METAL HEROES

XANADUDES
 Rush by members of
 3 Inches of Blood, Angry

PENTAGORD
 Pentagram by members of
 Baptists, Rotting Hills,
 Ancients, Cooked and Eaten

neüterhead

ace of spays
LAUNCH PARTY!

AIN'T VITUS
 Saint Vitus by members
 of Bison BC, 3 Inches of
 Blood, Haggatha,
 Goatsblood, Grass City
PLUS more bands TBA.
 Hosted by Shane Clark of 3
 Inches of Blood

Neüterhead: Ace of Spays is a non-profit organization that uses rock n roll to raise funds to assist responsible pet rescue groups with the costs of spaying and neutering. **All profits from this show go directly to helping animals in need.** Huge thanks go out to these bands who have generously donated their time to our cause. **Tix on sale May 13.**
 Ticket sale locations, merch, and more at: **neüterhead.com ⚡**

THIS AD SPACE WAS GENEROUSLY DONATED BY:



Long Live Cats and Dogs

Raw & natural Canadian-made pet foods.
 Eco-conscious & artisan products.

2255 East Hastings, Vancouver, BC V5L 1V3
 604.336.3093
www.longlivecatsanddogs.com

The best damn pet shop in town.



Deadly Couture

Latex Fetish Gothic Alternative Fashion Boutique
www.deadlyfetish.com



Sleez In The City

Merging Fantasy with Reality

By CJ Sleez

In my last AU column ("On Faking It..."), I made a broad suggestion that guys (or girls) could check out some porn in order to find tips on how to help their female sexual partners achieve an authentic orgasm. Upon further consideration, I feel I should elaborate. After all, porn (especially the hard-core deviant variety) doesn't always translate smoothly into real life.

Expectations need to be shifted. Remember, porn stars are stars for a reason. They're fit, tan, hairless, and unlike most people, they still look fantastic covered in sweat. Most of all we need to keep in mind that they're acting. They're performing for a camera or audience. The main priority is putting on a good show, not making an intensely intimate connection, which in my opinion is what fantastic sex, I mean mind-blowing, earth-standing-still, soul-soaring, orgasmic sex, is all about.

In everyday life there's no rehearsed script to follow, so communication is key. For example, you don't want to surprise your lover with (as they put it in the movie "Leaving Las Vegas") an unexpected "back-door delivery", especially if your partner is an ass-o-phobe like myself. Other common acts seen in porn that should definitely be discussed prior to sex (in order to avoid any unintended offence being taken), include playful spanking, penis slaps to the face, cum shots to the eyes, golden showers and pretty much anything involving S&M. It's just as important to be aware of your partner's limits and comfort levels as it is

to know the depths of their fantasies.

Also, be extremely wary of suggesting anything involving swapping, swinging or group sex, as your partner may take it as a personal insult knowing that they are not enough to satisfy you on their own. If this is truly the case however, and what you need are multiple partners to get you off, than by all means be honest, but be prepared for the possible fall-out. I mean hell; if remaining monogamous doesn't do it for you, why not go after what you really want? Chances are if the sex is unfulfilling, the relationship won't last long anyway.

On the plus side, most women will be receptive and up for things like experimenting with new positions/locations, dirty-talking, role-playing and introducing/incorporating sex toys into your routine. Just keep in mind that generally speaking, guys are into both watching and taking part in wilder stuff than most women are into, so try not to freak them out by suggesting too much too soon. Be gradual with your propositions and ease your way into things. Women respond to slow-progression when it comes to sex. It's just one of the ways we always keep you wanting more.

Have a question for CJ Sleez concerning Sex, Drugs or Rock n' Roll? Email them to CJSleez@hotmail.com. If your question is used or printed, she'll send you a free copy of her latest CD, "Valley Of The Shadow". For more info on CJ, check out her band site at www.CJSLEEZ.com



A GREAT TATTOO STARTS WITH GREAT ART

WWW.ASYLUMTATTOOS.CA

250 382-8500 1910 STORE STREET, VICTORIA, BC

MON - SAT: 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM SUN: 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER & FACEBOOK FOR CONTESTS





Kvelertak

By Allison Drinnan

Absolute Underground's Allison Drinnan catches up with Erlend Hjelvik, vocalist of Kvelertak, the swiftly-rising Norwegian metal-rockers who have just released their second album, Meir, through Roadrunner Records.

Absolute Underground: For those who aren't familiar with the history of the band, can you tell me a bit about your history? How did you guys form?

Erlend Hjelvik: The band started in me and Bjarte [Rolland, guitar]'s basement in 2006. We got a couple of friends together, had a few line-up changes and have had a steady line-up since 2009. We started the band as something to just pass the time with and after a few years of fucking around it suddenly got serious, hehe.

AU: Are you guys pretty excited to be doing a headlining tour in North America?

EH: Super stoked! Especially with an awesome package like that, both Cancer Bats and Black Tusk are amazing bands, you'd be a fool to miss out on it!

AU: I have heard amazing things about your live show. For someone who has never seen it before, how would you describe it? How should I prepare?

EH: It can get pretty crazy, we just go balls-out on every show. There's a lot of testosterone, sweat and adrenaline. You don't need to prepare, just don't put on your favorite Sunday wear if you plan on standing in the front!

AU: What was the craziest live show for Kvelertak?

EH: There's an awesome YouTube clip of a show we played in Singapore that ended up stopping traffic out on the street, that was kinda crazy. Other than that that we've had people fucking in front of the stage, people breaking their legs and all kinds of funny shit.

AU: I've read the term "black and roll" associated with Kvelertak. Would you agree with that label? Have you guys come up with a better one?

EH: I really don't care for that "black n roll" label, I think it sounds too limiting. We just call it rock, ourselves!

AU: Tell me about why the band chose to go with Roadrunner?

EH: It just felt like a natural step in the right direction for us. We talked to a bunch of different labels, of course, but in the end Roadrunner came with the best offer and they seemed like they really wanted to release the album. We're pretty excited about seeing what they are going to be able to do with the new album!

AU: Why did you choose to step away from the theme of Nordic mythology on

this album?

EH: I did it because I didn't want to keep writing about Norse mythology on every album, it's not like I'm an expert on the subject like the guys in Enslaved are. I mostly took stuff out of my own [head] this time, instead of reading up on the subject matter and then writing the lyrics.

AU: You guys have stuck to your guns by writing and performing your lyrics in Norwegian. Why did you choose to do this instead of English?

EH: We've been doing it for so long now that Norwegian feels like an important part of our sound. I think it would sound weird if we did asong in English. By now I think even our fans outside of Norway would be disappointed if we suddenly started singing in English. Maybe in the future we'll do a Spanish album instead.

AU: Tell me about how you think this album differs or has progressed from the previous release?



EH: I think it sounds like a continuation of the first album. That being said, I think the new one is bigger-sounding and it feels like we've expanded on the sound of the first one. It's completely shameless and we didn't put any limits on ourselves whatsoever. It's like the album title says (Meir means More in Norwegian), it's just more of everything that's Kvelertak!

AU: You guys have had a huge amount of success in a short amount of time. Has it all sunk in? Why do you think people are reacting so positively to Kvelertak?

EH: No, we've just been trying to keep busy and just focus on improving the live shows

and our music, I think that's the best way to do things! I guess people react positively to us because we bring something new to the table, I don't think there's any band out there that can successfully copy what we do.

AU: What is the plan for the immediate future for the band?

EH: Touring! Right now, we're on a European tour that is six weeks long, after a couple of days home we're heading to the States to tour there before heading home for the festival season. It's going to be a busy and fun year!

Check Kvelertak out online at:

www.kvelertak.com

www.facebook.com/Kvelertak



HOME OF THE 420 PIZZA!!!

WWW.PIZZAZONE.CA
250-857-1111

Beer & MORE To Your Door

NEW OWNERS

Order a LARGE 420 and 12 pack of any beer and get a FREE glass pipe

1806 COOK STREET, VICTORIA BC
YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD PIZZERIA

JESSE TATTOO

AT FLESHWORKS STUDIO
VICTORIA BC 250-382-0456

TATTOOING SINCE 1992!

JESSE TATTOO.COM

FLESHWORKS.CA



AU: The new record just hit the streets. What is your focus musically and lyrically on this release? What was your favourite part of recording the album?

DB: The focus for the new record was pretty much to come up with something really brutal

and catchy that doesn't bore the musician listener and doesn't go over the non-musician listener's head. My favorite part of recording this

record was seeing it all come together. You put in all this hard work behind the scenes, beforehand, and getting to see it all come together as a final product is really my favorite part of the process.

AU: What does it mean to you to have your original drummer Mike Smith, who was there from the start - depart and to be joined by Dave Culross (Malevolent Creation and Suffocation)? What does he bring to the group and why did you want him back?

DB: Suffocation has seen members come and go over the years. The band is not a one-man show; it's a collaborated effort between five musicians who can get along. Dave's a great player, and a great guy. It was an easy choice for us to see if Dave was interested in rejoining the band when we knew Mike was looking to leave. Dave brings a lot to the table, his great attitude, being easy to work with and, of course, his aggressive playing.



Suffocation

Pinnacle Of Bedlam

By Erik Lindholm

Long Island, New York technical death metal legends Suffocation remain at the top of the game in American metal. Coming off the release of "Pinnacle Of Bedlam" in February 2013, and getting set for a summer on the road, here is bassist Derek Boyer on lineup changes, cover songs and what it means to put out a seventh full-length release.

AU: First, thanks for taking the time for the interview. Where are you now and what's going on?

Derek Boyer: Sure, no problem. Right now I'm in New York, getting ready to take off for the weekend, we will be performing in Oslo, Norway at the Inferno Festival.

Having Dave back behind the kit is an all-around win-win situation for us.

AU: As a band you've played around the world over decades. What show do you want to play, and with which band(s)? Dream lineup please!

DB: You know, there are a lot of real big festivals out there that are awesome to play. I guess my dream lineup would be to get some of the other heavyweight death metal bands out with us on the same show. It's really hard to get all the headliners on one bill because it's a money issue... It would be great, but it's not really very realistic, unfortunately.

AU: Inspiring music for you... who do you enjoy at this moment?

DB: I can't really say I'm listening to music right now to be inspired, if I had to name some of the current bands I'm listening to just because I enjoy them, I would say: Spawn of Possession, Arkaik, Aeon, and Decrepit Birth... I could probably go on and on, but those are the first few that came to mind.

AU: What is the status on the documentary "Suffocation: Legacy of Violence"? What do you want to communicate to fans with the release? What do people screw up in perceiving the band?



DB: Here we go again... The DVD was a concept we had with a director, who is/was a fan of the band. He did a ton of work compiling, editing, interviewing and he had countless issues, from hard drive failure to home invasion where his computer and hard drives were stolen. The DVD has been worked on and re-worked on and so on, to the point where we were like, "WHAT THE FUCK?, is it EVER gonna come out?" So, where we are now is, the concept and some of the footage is in the hands of another director who the band has worked with and who we really respect and know he'll do a good job. I'm sorry but the subject makes me bitter. I know our fans are just as upset, if not more than I am. But one thing we can tell the fans is, it's coming... soon! Haha!

AU: Well, there ya go. Last words for the Canadian fans!

DB: We LOVE the Canadian fans! They're quite possibly the most intense fans out there! We look forward to performing for you guys (and gals) very soon! Take care and keep it intense!

Check Suffocation out online at:

www.facebook.com/suffocation

www.myspace.com/suffocation

Enslaved

Absolute Underground's Willow Gamberg catches up with guitarist Ivar Bjørnson of Enslaved, just before the Vancouver show on their tour for their newest release, RIITIIR.

Absolute Underground: How's the tour been so far?

Ivar Bjørnson: It's been really good. We've been around a couple times since we started touring North America around 2007 approximately... we're hoping to maintain that level, it's going up! There's more people coming every night.

AU: Enslaved has been to Canada plenty of times before, right?

IB: We have. And we keep telling our booking agent that we really want to put an emphasis on Canada because I think it really connects what we're doing with the Canadian metal audience. It's got historical background with the kind of bands that are coming out of Canada in the old days, like Voivod and that kind of stuff... it's never been about being as mainstream as possible, it's been about just getting into music, and that seems to be fitting us really well.

AU: Glad to hear it. So you guys are touring for 2012's Riitiir, released last October... it's been called the most progressive or "far out" of your albums to date; how do you guys respond to

these observations?

IB: I think we took a lot of risks with this album. When we had the musical groundwork done for the album, one of the first things I

realized was all the songs are nine, ten minutes long, most of them are lacking any clear structure. It's not for people that are used to picking up new stuff on the radio, expecting a verse and a chorus and so on. I kind of feel proud that we just believed in the songs even though it was quite different, we just went with it and tried to explore that difference... it sometimes feels like we're supplying some kind of fresh air, which is cool.

AU: What does the album represent for the band or for you personally?

IB: For me, it represents freedom... It's not like we've ever made music to please anyone, but especially with this one... knowing that there would be quite a lot of expectations for this one... I'm really proud that we sort of chose the narrower path and just did what we believed in, and it's paying off. So for me it represents integrity and musical freedom.

AU: Speaking of the musical process, other than the engineering, did you guys do anything differently with this album than with your previous releases?

IB: Yeah I would say that we spent a lot more time rehearsing it, and put a lot more critical light on the basic ideas....it was a much more concrete and physical process this time than we've ever done before. It's kind of weird because that's how

we started out in the 90s, before computers and everything and we're sort of back to that now.

AU: So I read that "RIITIIR" was about ritual... what does that mean to you?

IB: Yeah, it's a fascination on many levels... the fascination of the history of it, when you start looking into the whole process of the rituals of man, you sort of realize this is probably one of the most basic and primeval things that is the trademark of what it is to be human... And you can find that in all the cultures, so many years back... [Rituals are] also on a philosophical level, you have to face yourself and put yourself in a position where you give something away, be willing to let part of yourself go and certain ideas die and then in that process you accomplish something new. So I guess it's both a tribute to the rituals in our history and at the same time a bit of a ritual in itself I guess.

AU: You guys were just on the most recent Barge To Hell cruise, how was that?

IB: It was amazing! I have to admit that I was probably, like many other of the artists, a bit skeptical to begin with, imagining this whole binge drinking thing and people in your face all the time, but you know there was something there that just appealed to us, and during the first day I was totally hooked. I think it's a beautiful idea, okay it's expensive and all that stuff because it's a cruise ship, but it was so cool because

we met people that had spent so many years following the bands, giving out CDs and telling stories... everything's like just back down to the basics of just being metalheads having a good time. So yeah, we'd definitely do that again.

AU: What are your hopes and goals for Enslaved in the future? More albums, touring?

IB: Yeah the albums will keep coming, there's just so much inspiration, so [many] vibrations and



ideas that keep coming in while on this tour, it happens daily, many times, I have ideas for new stuff... It's all about just doing the next gig better, the next album better, rehearsing. We're having a blast as people, I think that's the most important thing... Whatever potential there is for Enslaved, we just make sure that we fulfill that.

To hear samples from RIITIIR, or for more information, check out www.enslaved.no

a freakin bad ass collection of WICKED* POSTERS and SLAMMIN tunes

COME VISIT OUR TABLE AT THE CALGARY COMIC AND ENTERTAINMENT EXPO April 26-28

1502-11 AVE S.W. CALGARY, AB 403 802-1846

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

HERITAGEPOSTERSANDMUSIC.COM

10TH CALGARY UNDERGROUND FILM FESTIVAL

APRIL 15 - 21, 2013

AT THE GLOBE CINEMA

617 8TH AVENUE SW



TICKETS AND FESTIVAL INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.CALGARYUNDERGROUNDFILM.COM

LICENSED EVENT - EVENINGS NO MINORS - MATINEES ALL AGES
\$10 REGULAR SCREENINGS | \$8 CUFF MEMBERS - STUDENTS - SENIORS | \$40 5-FILM PUNCH CARD | \$140 FESTIVAL PASS



CALGARY

METAL

FEST

MMXIII

SKELTON WITH

OUT OF THE RUINS

VILLAINIZER

ANCIENTS

CRYSTAL MESS

DISCIPLES OF POWER

BEASTS OF DEMISE

INTRONAUT

SCALE THE SUMMIT

FRIGHTENSTEIN

ENDAST

THE WISER

MORTILLER

WAKE

DIVINITY X INTO ETERNITY X ENDAST X CAVEAT X KATAPLEXIS X SLAGOUSTER X SCALE THE SUMMIT X THRESH
THE ORDER OF CHAOS X BREATHE KNIVES X THIS IS WAR X SIGIL X THE PROMETHEAN LABYRINTH X HELLRAZER X HROM
THE PRESS GANG X ENEMY US X SPARKY X LAVAGUAT X LORDOSIS X LAIKA X QUIETUS X SUPER MASSIVE BLACK HOLES
WITCHSTONE X DEAD ASYLUM X BLACKKAT X CHEIFTAIN X VICTIMIZE X GUNFACE X PASSADO X MOOSIFIX X SAVAGE STREETS
STAB TWIST PULL X EXIT STRATEGY X KYOKTYS X HAMMERDRONE X TRUCK X UNTIMELY DEMISE X NINJA SPY X AGANOL
BURNING EFFIGY X VIATHYN X OSYRON X WE FOUND THE BODY X HIS LAST WORDS X LEAVE THE LIVING X SOUNDSKRAPE
SHARK INFESTED DAUGHTERS X ARSENAL X GATEKRAASHOR X SKYMA X MISANTHROPY X JUNKIES RUSH X SHRAPNAL X IODE
ARCHELAOS X JUST STAY FUCKING DEAD X BLACK PESTILENCE X NO MORE MOMENTS X FROM ANOTHER TIME X BREED OF WAR

HOSTED BY JASON ROUSE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5 - SATURDAY, JUNE 8

DICKENS
broken city

1000 - 9TH AVENUE SW | 403-233-7550

WWW.DICKENSPUB.CA

613 - 11TH AVENUE SW | 403-262-9976

WWW.BROKENCITY.CA

AXE
axemusic.com

BIG NATE
PRODUCTIONS

SPYMAN
MEDIA .com

FOR THE LATEST INFO AND TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE - WWW.CALGARYMETALFEST.COM

Absolute Film Reviews

TerrorVision / The Video Dead Scream! Factory

TerrorVision and The Video Dead double feature Blu-Ray from Scream Factory has to be one of my most anticipated releases of 2013. This is easily the best double feature DVD / Blu-Ray to come out since the Anchor Bay 2003 release of A Blade in the Dark / Macabre. I love that Shout Factory and its sister company Scream Factory put these two classic, low-budget 80s horror flicks together. And this is the first time either has officially been put on any kind of home-video format since they were on VHS. There has been some crappy bootleg transfers floating around (any real cinephile out there most likely had a copy) but now we can own an amazing version of these two gems. First up on the double bill is TerrorVision, a campy sci-fi/horror/ comedy about an alien-infested television set owned by the modern, swinging family, the Puttermans. The new satellite dish bought by the family picks up a transmission from an alien world that accidentally sends an evil monster into their TV. The family must now fight off this massive glob of goop before it devours all of mankind. The special effects and laugh-out-loud story are sure to fill any horror fanatic with glee. Directed by Ted Nicolaou and starring Gerrit Graham, Jon Gries and Diane Franklin, TerrorVision is definitely worth every penny.

Next up we have Robert Scott's 1987 masterpiece of low budget cinema, The Video Dead. I have a VHS-transferred DVD of The Video Dead and along with my Video Dead t-shirt, I'm a huge fan of this little piece of 80s wonderment. So when I heard that this, along with TerrorVision, was getting a proper release, I was over the moon! I love micro-budget horror and The Video Dead is up there with some of the best of the genre. Following the possessed television theme, The Video Dead is about an unsuspecting family that moves into a house containing a TV that is a host to the living dead. Watching what they think is a late night monster movie turns out to be a portal for the horde of flesh eaters to enter our world and wreck havoc. Of course, this is what most zombie movie fans want; mindless gore and a ridiculous plot with over-the-top situations. This is a nice lost classic in an otherwise over-played genre. Both films have great transfers and the special features are so good it's almost worth picking up for them alone. I'm not digging on zombies as much as I used to these days, but with films like The Video Dead coming out, I can easily say that I'm not disappointed in any way. Plus the line-up of releases from Scream Factory is almost mind-blowing! Stay tuned...

-Cody No Teeth

Victoria Film Festival 2013: Rating all those Little Horrors

The movies featured at the Victoria Film Festival 2013 contained more thrillers than tales of terror. Some were highly interpretive, like Behind Elsewhere by Carrado Mariani, a surrealistic short, while others are more direct in its approach. With Mariani's featurette, he may well have been making a statement about "The Mouse" versus capitalism whereas Quinn Spicker's piece, Harvey's Dream, is very sublime as it looks at how terror can be felt while living with a loved one struggling with Alzheimer's. Both are interesting concepts that try to expand on the theory that true horror is an isolating experience. Unfortunately, neither of these two shorts really succeeds at an emotional level. The impact is not understood until these two films are discussed much later.

At least fans of animation and Christopher Plummer may enjoy Kali Le Petit Vampire. Plummer does a great job narrating this tale. And this short brings the artistic style of Picasso to celluloid life. The blacks have texture and the shadows are alive. In this story, Kali struggles with the need to make friends, though he is unable. Fans of horror may want to draw comparisons to the H.P. Lovecraft's short, "The Outsider."

And this author may well have inspired a few moments in Bardo Light, a piece developed by Connor



Gaston, a graduate from the University of Victoria. This short suggests a cosmic terror is at work. Gaston succeeds in creating the interest, but the pacing could be better to get to the crux of what kind of terror lurks within the light.

Even the noir style gets played up in Red Valentine. This short is very well stylized. The colours are engaging and the plot requires viewers to pay attention to every single detail in order to solve the mystery. This movie is the most engaging because viewers are also trying to figure out

who the killer is. This film is perhaps the best of the eight films shown.

Between Red Valentine and the mystery spy thriller Shadowplay, by BC resident Ed Osgian, they made up the highlights of the night. The Victoria Film Festival's Little Horrors program is not necessarily about scaring audiences silly. Instead, the night deals with how the isolation of the individual is treated in a cinematic sense, and that can be terrifying in itself. The finale, Frost, seems to reinforce that point. This cinematography of this tale suc-

ceeds in blending one practical set with CGI magic in a tale where most of Canada is wrapped in an eternal arctic winter. The lesson taught in this tale is that everyone has to experience that rite of passage before being welcomed into a tribe.

In this case, this special program inaugurates those looking for the next generation of filmmakers, to see who can craft a better story than those for an experience at the Victoria Film Festival.

-Ed Sum

Business Profile

Van Isle Promotions

Interview by Cam D'Andrade

A lot of the good shows in Victoria, BC are hardcore, wild, epic, and of course, adult only. We've got a lot of young rockers out there looking to get into this legendary scene that all of their older friends keep talking about. This is where Cameron Francheschini and the rest of the rad guys at Van Isle Promotions step in and bring shows to life for the everyday teenage music fanatic.

Absolute Underground: Who are you and what do you do?

Cameron Francheschini: Well basically I'm the co-owner and founder of Van Isle Promotions. We put on all ages shows in Victoria, and we're all awesome guys!

AU: What gave you the idea/ inspiration for VIP?

CF: My interest in shows started when I started going to them, and realized how amazing they were and how much fun everyone had at them. Ever since then I just wanted to help put them on and get more and more shows happening in Victoria.

AU: How long have you guys been up and running?

CF: I think we became public right before June, and our first show was August 31st, 2012. But I'd been throwing the idea of it back and forth with the other guys for a few months beforehand.

AU: Are there any bands that you specifically favor within the industry?

CF: We don't give favour to any genre or bands. We just want to be able to put on shows for bands that people love. If we think that the Victoria crowd would be into a show with a specific band, we'll do it.

AU: Do you guys do just all-ages shows?

CF: As of right now, yes we're only



all-ages shows. AA shows are very important to me because I think that everyone deserves to be able to enjoy live music. Also, since I'm only 18, hosting bar shows is currently not possible, haha.

AU: What are all the bands that you guys promote?

CF: We promote all the bands that do shows with us, or any band that we hear of and think is awesome.

AU: Are you open to taking on new bands?

CF: I want this scene to flourish. So yes, I'm very open to taking on new bands. Everyone that plays music has a right to be heard.

AU: What do you see for VIP's future as a company? Are there any?

CF: VIP's goals for the future are just to keep putting on shows that we ourselves, as well as the crowd and people that attend our shows, are proud of. Hopefully we'll keep building up momentum and will be able to bring in bigger and better bands with time but right now it's just about going as long and hard as we can with it.

For more information, check out <http://www.facebook.com/VanIslePromotions>

"Bringing Metal To The Masses"



ASHER MEDIA RELATIONS

www.AsherMediaRelations.com
ashermedia@gmail.com
514.932.1244

News Releases, Radio Promotions Canada & US, Tour Media Support, Interviews, Album Reviews, Media Kits, Brand / Image Awareness



Absolute Album Reviews

A Fucking Elephant- Seven Inches Nefarious Industries

This two-song release is a real interesting blurb coming from the more adventurous side of metal. It's played by a mind-mangling two-piece that fashion their entirely instrumental sounds out of what seems like discarded Cornelius Cardew scores deemed too crazy for human performance.

On paper, the guitar-and-drums duo appears to take a minimalist approach, but the music definitely doesn't feel that way. Based around a two-handed tapping technique, intricate guitar patterns are woven atop complex and versatile drumming which calls to mind the fine art of instrumental rock when played by voiceless wizards Don Caberello. Recorded by Colin Marston, the Czar of thought-provoking hard music, this 7" is more sonic destruction than music and is definitely not for the masses, just for us diehards of experimental metal, thank-you very much!

-Dan Potter

Warbeast/Philip Anselmo-War of the Gargantuas Housecore

While we excitedly wait for the solo release from Mr. Anselmo, an early gift is in the offering. In War of the Gargantuas, a tantalizing glimpse of what may come is belted out with true southern rage. Not only are these two new tracks awesome, but Philip proves he's still a stand-up guy by including thrash titans Warbeast beside him during his much-welcomed return.

"Conflict" is the first we hear of the legendary vocalist, and it really brings back some cool vibes built upon the feel-good fury of the sadly out-of-commission metal goliaths he has played for in the past. Overall, Anselmo's tough-guy howl has aged well; he still sounds confused and angry as hell about a whole lot of things.

Warbeast adds some gasoline to the flames with "Birth of a Psycho", where they kick out some relentless thrash, the kind only old-schoolers have the guts to play. It's interesting to hear this pairing of an old-school legend making his return while a new group playing it old-school style moves on up the ladder. All in the name of sticking it to the powers that be!

-Dan Potter

Cough/Windhand- Reflection of the Negative

Relapse Records

Cough kicks things off with a stellar 17-minute epic track titled "Athame". Preceding the evocation of deep anguish and pain-injected rage is some vampire-friendly organ playing fit for a Black Mass held somewhere down below in the bottomless pit itself. This track may well be the off-

cial soundtrack of the phoenix rising from the ashes in order to claim its dark rebirth.

Then, just as you think the hounds of the underworld are going to be sent upon you, Windhand unleashes its psychedelic, acid-drenched doom metal to take you sideways in this blackened dream. Their sound is built around the echoing wail coming from the singer that seems to ride the waves of crushing doom blitzes effortlessly. The vocals are definitely the standout feature, as slow elongated vowels turn words into an impression of what it must be like to look down upon a river of molten gold flowing towards Mordor.

Both acts have the tendency to call into the night air in hopes they can awaken Cthulhu. If the ol' mountain monster does show, you'd have to admit that would be one hell of a blues jam!

-Dan Potter

Abiotic- Symbiosis Metal Blade

These guys create an atmosphere filled with sheer terror, like being eyed closely by a predator that has chosen you as its next meal. Even so, what's really interesting is that beneath the creepy, down-tuned staccato riffs and wailing speed metal lies a desire to progress to the next level in "hard music". There is definitely a bias in favour of the more modern genres of metal, as the distinct classical vibe so closely linked with death metal is complimented by post-production glitch and jazzy breakdowns. The metal can be brutal at times as its complexities in sound and rhythm threaten to turn you into a PhD student in mathematics.

Luckily, just as it gets too dense, a metallic euro-vibe prevails with ethereal melodic interludes led mostly by the soaring guitar solo breaks that scream dedication to the hardest of crafts; metal. Meanwhile, the screeching of a scornful witch relays the lyrical content as if the whole world were damned to an eternity of torture by wind chimes. Then, just when you thought it couldn't get any heavier, the tempo breaks down and a grinding stomp finishes things off. Utterly tooth-loosening!

-Dan Potter

Bastard Sapling- Dragged from Our Restless Trance Forcefield Records

Bastard Sapling are black metal from Richmond, Virginia. Doesn't exactly seem like the place where frostbitten Satan would find musicians. Makes me more think of colonial theme-parks or civil war re-enactments but hey, I don't judge. From what I can tell, they have released two EPs and this is their first full-length; even though it only has four

songs on it, there's a little more than 40 minutes on here. There's also only 500 copies available so I'll only be working with a digital copy.

It all starts off with "Prophecy Born From Dismal Terrain", and it's a good start. Straight-up black metal, in my opinion. A pretty good first song with a solid tempo that gets your head moving. This is before the band starts to get really experimental. "Cold Winds Howled Across the Desolation" is a perfect name for how the next song feels and sounds. You definitely get the feeling of desolation. Lots of atmosphere and bleakness from start to end. Dare I say it's also got some tasty guitar riffing. This really has a mid-90s black metal feeling to it, kind of like early Ulver. Constant drumming keeps the pace while guitars meander in and out. The vocals are howled and growled over the soundscape. Right about the middle of "The Apex of Suffering" I started to get the Bathory tingles. That feeling where you think you're getting the exact ancient warrior feeling that the artist was trying to give you. Maybe that's just the brain damage talking, but that's the feeling I get with the last two songs. The album ends better than it starts, slow, droning and atmospheric.

I've listened to this album dozens of times now and I really enjoy it. It's black metal in a way that hasn't been done a lot in the last 15 to 20 years. If you like the atmospheric sound layering of Ulver or maybe Hate Forest, this is something you would be totally into. All the songs were full and, though this might be a bad word for this genre of metal, catchy. I'll continue listening to this, even if I just have it on in the background. I have no idea where to find it and of the number of their limited releases, but the internet is wonderful for that.

-Michael F. Carnage

Chosen- Resolution Self-released

Chosen is a band from Ireland that has released a bunch of EPs over the last 8 years but has now finally released a full-length. They're only a two-piece, but any metal fan knows that that sort of line-up can totally work out. The thing I usually like about a two-piece band is that it usually has a great groove to it. It forces the guitar and drums/percussion to work together in a way it doesn't usually in a full band.

The whole thing starts with a decent intro; as usual, it lasts about a minute before the metal begins. The second song has a shorter intro followed by some clean vocals and then growling and solid riffing. The formula plays through the 3rd song with a first minute and a half of classical guitar. Maybe it's just me but I can see a lot of Meshuggah influence in this. They seem to be trying to pack as much as they can into every song here. There's a lot of

ABSOLUTE UNDERGROUND

PUNK! HARDCORE & METAL

READ THE MAGAZINE
WATCH THE SHOW ONLINE
ALWAYS FREE



SHOP AT THE STORE LOCATED AT 1215 GOVERNMENT ST. VICTORIA B.C. TROUNCE ALLEY DOWNSTAIRS

VINYL & CD's, APPAREL, ART, BOOKS, STICKERS, PATCHES, PIPES AND BONGS NEW STOCK EVERY MONTH

WWW.ABSOLUTEUNDERGROUND.TV



the time changes in the songs. I'm not citing this as a detriment at all. "Asch's Paradigm" is full of changes and harsh then clean vocals, fast then slow rhythm. It's a pretty cool song, actually.

It seems most songs mix it up and contain a blend of styles. I could see how people would not like this approach too much as, to some people, these songs might seem a little too busy, but in the end it's an album I'll listen to again. I think my best advice with this one is that you'll have to listen to it more than a few times. I haven't decided yet whether or not it's a regular release or one of those hidden gems that will just grow on you over the first week you listen to it. I guess I'm going to have to figure that out.

-Michael F. Carnage

Lightning Swords of Death- Baphometric Chaosium Metal Blade Records

Lightning Swords of Death from L.A. has released their first new material

in about 3 or 4 years. Some people think they are too mainstream because they have toured with Danzig and are signed to Metal Blade, but I disagree. I don't think you have to be on an obscure label that only releases 666 copies to be a good black metal band. Either way, this is their second release on Metal Blade.

The title track starts off with a good bit of atmosphere, keeping it mid-tempo throughout the whole song. For "Acid Gate" and "Psychic Waters" they speed it up a bit and you can really hear the Marduk influence. Autarch's chanting on "Acid Gate" could give people chills. Then there's a brief instrumental that sounds a lot like the background music in an old horror film. After this, I think the album really comes together. The last 4 songs are the best, in my opinion. "Chained to Decay" has a good grinding quality throughout the whole song, not really ever speeding up, but keeping you interested. I would have to say "Epicyclarium" would be my favorite

song on here. It's the longest one too, at almost 8 minutes, but it has some great tempo changes and I just like the feel of it.

Overall I think this is a pretty solid album. It starts well and ends well and there wasn't a song on there that I didn't like at all. Each song has great drumming and there is solid guitar work to be heard at several points. I'm a sucker for a good riff and was happy to hear quite a few. It all had a pretty evil feeling to it, which I think is the point of the genre. They do have a video that's pretty easy to find, so I'm sure anyone can locate their music on the Internet. They look to have a pretty DIY attitude, so they'd likely appreciate the \$10 if you bought a CD. In my uneducated and nearly pointless rating system, I'd give this one 4 goats out of 5.

-Michael F. Carnage

Cannabis Digest



Visit www.cannabisdigest.ca
and look for us at [facebook.com/CannaDigest](https://www.facebook.com/CannaDigest)

A quarterly cannabis newspaper
educating since 2003



Send Us your Live Reviews by Email admin@absoluteunderground.ca

Absolute Live Reviews

Meshuggah/Intronaut

Feb 27, Macewan Hall Ballroom, Calgary AB

Meshuggah is the only band that when listening to, I am able to crack my neck in places I couldn't before. As they bend rhythms which have the word "poly" prefacing them, the original djentlemens' brand of catch-22, eating-its-own-tail song-writing, is a new beast live. Without numerous takes in the studio, the band is left to account for all of its wizardry, and besides feeling like you are being bear-hugged by the Juggernaught, the mathematical appeal of Meshuggah is always in tow. How many notes can they fit into this bar? As many as it takes to make Jens Kidman's eyes roll back into his head.

With Animals as Leaders not making it across the border, a longer Meshuggah set was expected. Though looking at past setlists online, it looked to be a regular-sized one. Intronaut opened with a generous, "spacey", "djenty", melodic form of metal that felt right at home with Meshuggah. They are one of the hundreds of bands Meshuggah have influenced in the past few years. Why not have a full on djent-fest?

Starting with "Swarm", Meshuggah emerged with a backdrop featuring the artwork of their latest album, Koloss, which the set tonight mainly featured tracks from. The furious "Combustion" leads into "Transfixion", from Destroy Erase Improve, the oldest song the band would play to-night. The slow crawl into the exasperatingly heavy "Behind the Sun" is a high point in the midst of the fast, punishing songs around it. The infamous Catch 33 album, which is one song split up into several pieces, is showcased in "Mind's Mirror", which has the band take a smoke break back stage, only to emerge with the snarling riff of "In Death - Is Life", complete with neon green lights flashing behind the band. People with epilepsy beware - you won't be carried out from getting busted up in the pit, but because your eyes are also rolled back into your skulls from having a seizure from the light show. Was it a good enough beating for the four-year wait for the band to come back through town? Whoever experienced "Bleed" would say yes.

-Ryan Dyer

Marilyn Manson/Butcher Babies

Feb 8th, The Stampede Corral, Calgary AB

"I think I'm cleared of my illness... except AIDS." Marilyn Manson sardonically states midway through his set at the generously almost-full Stampede Corral during the Hey, Cruel World tour. The illness the 44-year-old shock rocker is talking about here is one that plagued him offstage and on, and resulting in him vomiting and collapsing during the band's final song, "The Beautiful People" at their Saskatoon date. While I don't fully believe this and think the guy maybe just got too sloshed in order to make it through having to play in the middle of the Canadian prairies, it was good to see the show come fully intact to Calgary - a city which has had a rocky history with "The God of Fuck", dating back to '97 when his show at The Max Bell Arena was infamously cancelled. Since then, Manson has returned once to The Jubilee Auditorium, where assigned seating killed the buzz that is the freedom to dance around wherever you want and light up joints, and here, tonight at The Corral we look to have all of the planets aligned - "The moon has now eclipsed the sun." Opening the show were The Butcher Babies, a feisty, leather-clad California band that likes to shriek and sing about blood and violence while blending four or five musical styles together per song. The dual female vocalists

trade off on screaming and yelling while the band plays an ultra-aggressive, almost djent-like at times, form of metal not unlike what you would hear on a record by Meshuggah, with speedy riffs like those on a DevilDriver song. The outfits were, fittingly, like what Manson would have worn during his '95 Smells Like Children tour. Leather pants. Ripped fishnets. It was nice to see a band have fun and look sexy while they are doing it. Goblin's Suspiria soundtrack main theme sets the mood before the plain black curtains fall down and a Bladerunner-style, Pris makeup-faced Manson imposes his presence. In addition to the makeup, he is sporting a hybrid skull/gas mask apparatus. "Hey, Cruel World" is the opening track, from his latest album Born Villain, and behind the man a conjoined cross illuminates while smoke rises from either side of the stage. The returning Twiggy Ramirez has traded in his granny dress for one that looks more like a butcher's, which Manson dons soon into his set. After the hefty beat of "Disposable Teens", "The Love Song" brings on more crowd participation with the "GUNS, GOD and GOVERNMENT" chorus being fit for a shock bolt pedestal. But we can't have everything right away. Pope outfit for this, cake for that, American flag for this, beer cutting knife microphone for that. For this tour Manson has lots of trinkets, toys, and confetti, and most of them are tossed into the hands of the stringy-fingered audience members. At times, his voice sounds lazy (to an ear who has heard it at its peak for so long on the early albums), but by no means is Manson not an energetic Schlockmeister. During "mOBSCENE", anyone standing next to the dancing Manson would have been kicked (ask John 5). The peak performance comes in the form of "Coma White" from Mechanical Animals. The ballad, in which Manson is shot like JFK in the music video, is the emotional peak (for the hardcore fans) - for the whole family there is "Sweet Dreams" - accompanied by a dimmed lamp above him, the lyrics of abuse and being abused never truly get old, because we all know someone like this. Only now, there is less onstage cutting during this song, and perhaps in the audience as well. The wild card, as shown on prior set lists, was "King Kill 33", only it was a fairly lackluster, instrumental version of the song while Manson prepared backstage for the peak energetic anthems of the night, "Antichrist Superstar" and "The Beautiful People". The former is always a sight to behold, with fists pumping in unison to the opening thumps. It is probably the closest and safest recreation of what it may have felt like to be part of Hitler's rallies, only instead of Sieg Heiling, fists pump to a message of the Antichrist rising. If only the E. Elias Merhige music video was playing behind the band. "Fuck it!" - the chorus of "Irresponsible Hate Anthem" says it all. The nihilistic energy of a Marilyn Manson concert can't be summed up in any other lyric; it always surprises me that an artist made it to the mainstream with this lyric behind him, but then again, Nietzsche is a little bit mainstream too. It was a surprise addition to the Calgary show. Did hearing it feel the same as it did when Manson played it in '97? Who knows. I wasn't there. But I think it's close.

-Ryan Dyer

F.T.W. III 2013

Feb 2, 3 2013, Logan's Tavern, Victoria, BC

F.T.W. "Forever Two Wheels" or F.T.W. "Fuck the World". I ride a bike on a daily basis but my bike doesn't have a 650 or 1200 CC engine resting under my crotch.... The motorcycle community has many factions, so what kind of people were repre-

sented at this F.T.W. event? What kind of music did these F.T.W. people groove to? Read on and journey into a two-night event at a seedy bar in Victoria, B.C., Canada and you shall see.

The first evening I scan the crowd and see various fashions of men and women. The jean vest with patches is common and I recognize some of the patches, but there's also greasers, tatty-clad folks, black leather, bearded and the odd metal dude. Then two uniformed police enter the bar and immediately narrow in on an attractive young woman. I guess cops need to pick up chicks too so I watch as they check her ID. She denies them any reason for further investigation so these two fuzz walk around, checkin' out the men in the room. I guess cops need to pick up men too, but after a quick cruise they leave the bar empty-hand-cuffed. On their way out, they shake hands with a moustache guy in a vest, who I figure is their informant. I have my eye on this guy.

I hear the stage liven up; the first band was Kentucky Womanizer from parts unknown. Toe-tappin' rock with a twist of sexy lady on the front. I focused for a few minutes on this band, as the lead lady on the stage takes an electric angle grinder to her crotch; luckily for her she was wearing a steel Jill that protected her baby-maker. Sparks flew from her crotch but I was pulled away to a table of some local gang (not gang.... team) members. Sadly the Womanizer band finished their set and I probably missed a good show. I figured a woman with a grinder must be the perfect fit in this crowd.

The next band was an import number from the mainland. La Chinga.... What the fuck?... Must be French or something. La Chinga is a three-piece that resembled the likes of something from the 70s. Can you say a heaping helping of fuzzed-out Led Zeppelin riffs? Their pace made the people scuttle around like hippies on Red Bull. They really ripped and when they finished their set, the crowd sounded like they wanted more and they wanted it bad.

The mainliner for the night enters and with a heavy "buzzzzz" of guitar sound and I realize it's time for a hit of the band called Buzzard. Live Buzzard is kinda like getting stoned using a 4-barrel carburetor. Buzzard equals heavy, riffed-down rock in the vein of 70s doom metal. With a resurgence of dudes growing their hair, growing beards and riding motorcycles, I think this music fits well with that retro style. Oh yeah, and did I mention Buzzard are fuckin' heavy? Hope to see some vinyl from these guys soon! I have been reserving a spot in between my Black Sabbath and Earthride records.... if you don't know these bands I suggest you get off the back of your girlfriend's bike and walk!

Friday night is over and it's way past my bedtime, so I ride my bike home to Mum.

Day 2, Feb 3 - F.T.W.

I had to go to work a few hours after I arrived home, unlike the many fortunate soldiers of F.T.W. who probably woke up in the tank or on the front lawn in the afternoon. My day was a knuckle-busting plethora of work that ended with me getting home at 5:00 to collapse on the kitchen floor and fall asleep. I was awakened by hot dinner. I ate and fell asleep again on the table. 10:00, the bell rang and I returned to the bar for more F.T.W. The bar had reached sold-out capacity. The table reserved for the good folks at Steve Drane Harley Davidson was full with the real men of Harley Davidson motorcycling in this city. This is a plug for that fine shop that has supported the F.T.W. event for the last two years, so get your arse down there and support them.

Unfortunately my late arrival meant I missed the performance by Island

Monster but the general consensus was they rocked the fucker good, or so it said on the Interweb. The Injectors from Abbotsford took the stage next. Now I sensed a taste of Vancouver skateboarder in this band's music as well as some tire-smoking and a little four-wheel drive.

Remember what the old T-shirt said... "Injection's nice but I'd rather be blown". You might ask yourself, did The Injectors deliver as well as a blower? I will say YES. Would I like to see this band again? I will say YES. Get your fast heshel rock here, boys!

This being the second night, the dance floor was a little more crowded and there was definitely a higher compression ratio. More people meant more out-of-control dancing, so The Stockers took the stage right into the crowd's faces. These guys are greasers that don't prescribe to the retro, 50s-era rock-a-billy that was popular a few years back. Their music is rocker music, but no stand-up bass. This is a garage band and the audience goes off in response to their music. I kinda felt like I was in Detroit seeing some of that early rock/punk from the 70s, you know, the kind of garage rock that happened before the afro became fashionable. That's The Stockers.

The end was near and what better way to end the evening than with an American band that goes by the name of The Spittin' Cobras?. The band has had a few years of touring under their belts, but this is the first time they have executed their music in this city. Unlike the previous bands that played, the Cobras have a blast of that wicked metal in their rock-n-roll. The singer was a screamer. You just wanted to raise your fist and yell, "Hell Yeah!", then your head would start banging. They ripped, and they even covered an oldie by the late, great Dio. Many girls on the dance floor even knew the lyrics and sang into the mic with the singer. Wow, what a great band to end this event with. Just when you had forgotten the title of this event, "F.T.W.", and all was fun and nothing was fucked, out of the corner of my eye I see a young Asian guy snake his way through the crowd and attack an old man. This was fucked. The dance floor cleared as the two head-locked it out until they separated. I was told later it was a skateboard-team war issue and not an ageism attack. They should ban skateboarders next time. Anyway The Spittin' Cobras never missed a beat, and F.T.W. came to an end with a happy crowd. Basically, "F.T.W." = Good times in a retro rocker way, but if you're lookin' for big motorbikes and Bob Seger or Rice Rockets and rap, this will not be the event for you.

It was time to leave when I spotted the guy from the previous night who I thought was a police informant. I wandered up to him and started some idle conversation. He smiles at me through his moustache and asks me if I know where he could get a large amount of drugs. I shake my head "no"....but I give him a wink and tell him I know where he can get a large amount of sexy time. I gently put my arm around him and felt what I thought was a gun holster... Whew, what a night!

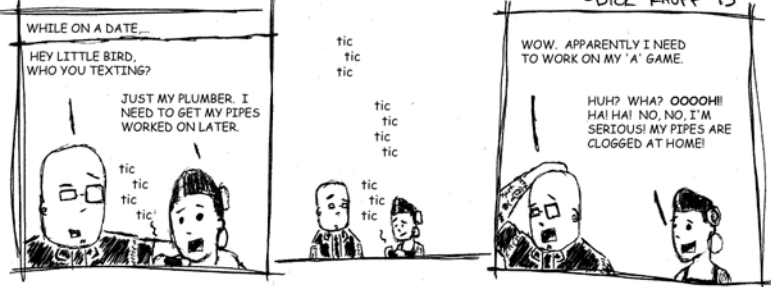
-Love, Mary Openheadr

Enslaved, Pallbearer, Royal Thunder, Ancient Wisdom

February 15, Dickens, Calgary, AB

This was a night filled with a plethora of Pitchfork darlings - awkward nerds with big beards, they take pictures holding a dog to be ironic, they're in a SXSW showcase, shit like that.

COFFEEtration Camp



I had heard so many amazing things about the openers, read review after review about how they are so gosh-darn great, and I had always tried to get into it, because there must be a reason so many other people are.

The true test would be at Dickens i Enslaved have become critical darlings as well, but they have definitely earned their stripes. They have been making genre-defining music since the 90s and they don't need to follow any trends or take an ironic picture in front of an abandoned barn or in a kitchen to prove it. They take their photos in the woods, because, let me tell you - they probably fucking live there.

Okay, ranting and raving aside - this show, overall, was pretty damn good. I arrived just in time for Royal Thunder, missing the opening act Ancient Wisdom. The band, hailing from Atlanta, can thank their vocalist/bassist Mlly Parsonz for the appeal of their set.

Parsonz's bluesy effortless vocals are a breath of fresh air as they rise through the thick riffs of Royal Thunder's doom-y sound. Her vocals ranged from sultry to sweet to just plain heart-aching. Although Parsonz was a shining beacon of hope for a band I thought was all hype, the performance as a whole was somewhat forgettable with the band getting tiresome by the second last song.

Pallbearer was up next, and provided what I expected from them. They do sound bone-crushingly heavy live, much like their album Sorrow and Extinction. They shook the building with their sludgy mix of psychedelic riffs and chugging bass. Vocalist/guitarist Brett Campbell has a fluttering range of vocals, which were difficult to appreciate as they were barley audible over the buzzing of their music.

They were great for about 2 songs - which, for Pallbearer, is about 23 minutes. By song four I was planning my next beer selection for the evening and wondering if Enslaved would play some of my favourite tunes.

Last up was Enslaved. I've seen them a few times live before and each time has been stellar. Their songs have a grand feel to them that makes me think they would be perfect for a majestic Hollywood blockbuster.

Vocalist and bassist Grutle Kjellson is almost like a cartoon character on stage with his dramatic facial expressions and crowd banter. Throwing his arms in the air and growling in Norwegian - You feel like he is a re-incarnated King of Norway or a Norse God.

Arve Isdal is perhaps the best guitarist in metal right now. I am not just saying that because of his wise choice to never wear a shirt. His solos are consistently mesmerizing, again, not just because he chooses not to wear a shirt.

They played old black metal classics from the early 90s and included more progressive selections off of 2010's Axioma Ethica Odini and their latest, 2012's RIITIIR.

Although the crowd was somewhat more aggressive than at previous Enslaved shows I have attended, the band put on a clinic in powerful progressive metal and how to play a

solo...shirtless.

-Allison Drinnan

Metal Alliance Tour: Anthrax, Exodus, High On Fire, Municipal Waste, Holy Grail

March 30th, The Commodore Vancouver, BC

With a bill that boasts so many experienced industry heavyweights, it's only to be expected that the aptly-named Metal Alliance would provide a crushing show.

First off, California's Holy Grail took the stage; not to be deterred by the early set time, these true rock stars kicked it into high gear, immediately inciting a mosh pit in the already-packed floor crowd. Exhibiting classic dramatic flair, they amped up the audience with stage antics, shout-outs to the next performers and of course, their signature fun brand of old-school power metal with racing dual guitars and strong vocals that stole the show. Next up, Municipal Waste played a blistering punk-edged set, fairly straightforward, to provide fuel for the circle pits forming in the growing crowd. Loud, in-your-face punk attitude prefomated as they continued Holy Grail's energy, though with slightly less direct interaction with the crowd.

Following up was High on Fire, who played in Vancouver just recently, on Dec. 16th. True to form, their set was a punishingly loud, balls-to-the-wall affair that had the entire venue shaking like a living entity. Though they endorsed a slightly less frenetic pace and chiller crowd than Municipal Waste, they were by no means slow; they kept it heavy and groovy without letting the energy drop for a second, and lucky they did, as the pace picked right back up as Exodus took the stage.

The floor, which had been filling steadily, was suddenly packed to the back. Exodus ripped through their longer set at high speed, channeling the spirit of true old-school thrash with their mobile, high energy stage performance. The vocalist, Rob Dukes, was particularly involved with the crowd, actively orchestrating circle pits within the crowd and encouraging them along at intervals. These guys are the real deal, and with shows like this, they prove exactly why they deserve that label.

Finally, it was time for Anthrax. Unsurprisingly, the crowd went nuts. They played all of the Among the Living album, but in sides, starting with side A, throwing in a few other songs, and then continuing on to side B, and finally closing with some greatest hits... A nice change from other bands who play complete albums live. They also paid various tributes to fellow heavy metal heroes, playing a tribute to Dio and Dimebag with "In the End", as well as covering AC/DC and singing along with Rainbow's "Long Live Rock N Roll", which played at the conclusion of their set.

All in all, the Metal Alliance tour was truly a gathering of titans, each making their own substantial mark in heavy metal history. They are all famous for a reason, and as proved particularly in the cases of Anthrax and Exodus, they've shown us just how potent and relevant they still are, and will continue to be in days to come.

-Willow Gamberg



The Slackers

By Michael Luis

New York's The Slackers have been combining ska, dub, reggae, and rock n' roll for over 20 years. The Hellcat Records group brought their energetic stage show to Victoria, Nanaimo and Vancouver early this March. I sat down with bassist Marcus Geard and trombonist/vocalist Glen Pine after their Victoria show.

Absolute Underground: What keeps bringing you guys back to Victoria?

Glen Pine: We've been here a number of times and the folks here have been so fantastic, really supportive. The people really know the music and are into the music, and it's such a beautiful place. For us, the shows are great, really well-attended and enthusiastic, and we get the fortune to arrive by boat and see the beautiful nature coming in.

AU: Since you guys have such a large catalog of music, how do you pick what to put into the set list?

GP: Dice. The farmer's almanac.

Marcus Geard: A Ouija board. We have a custom-made dartboard that we throw ninja stars at.

But truthfully, I write the set lists. I keep the sets from most of the shows we do. I referenced the set list from the last time we were here, so we didn't play more than two or three of the same songs as last time. We just mix it up. It's got to be constantly changing. You could come follow us for 30 days, and see different songs every night.

AU: You guys are very popular in the punk community even though what could be

different than what you guys play. Why do you think this is?

MG: We really embody punk. We're doing our own thing our own way. Isn't that punk? What's the most punk thing in the world: playing punk rock to a punk rock audience, or jazz to a punk rock audience? You're all

wearing your punk rock outfit and I show up in a suit and tie.

GP: For me, all the music fans I know listen to all sorts of different stuff. Like you'll probably find hardcore guys who hear ska, and they're like "Hey, I like this too."

AU: You guys are on Hellcat Records... Do you think that some of this punk/ska stuff could be related to what Tim (Armstrong) does?

GP: When you look at what The Clash did, seeing the connection with Jamaican music and what was going on in England, Tim is from that same lineage. He was just deliberate about it.

AU: It's like when you get one of those Give 'Em the Boot compilations, and there's a really heavy hardcore song, and then you guys, and then another punk song, and then The Aggrolites or something.

MG: And I think he gets punk rock. I think that was really cool of him.

GP: Definitely. And I feel like in some ways, as a musician, you have to a bit of a historian and say "This is stuff I liked growing up and I want to keep this stuff going."

AU: Awesome, I also noticed you guys have made a very concentrated effort to tour Japan. What are the Japanese fans like?

MG: Really awesome, actually. You hear a lot of people say Japanese audiences are reserved, but they're not so much reserved, it's just they listen. They're respectful and they appreciate good music.

GP: They have a better understanding of shit too. A Japanese ska fan is bound to have a three-foot-deep collection of vinyl.

AU: Another thing I noticed was on earlier

(Ruggiero, keys/vocals) wrote most of the material, but on later albums, you guys have all written songs. How did this collaborative style come about?

GP: I think it's important for the longevity of a band to have everyone feel invested, where you're not just playing other people's songs. I think it keeps it fresh.



MG: I think just over time we all evolved as songwriters. The Slackers is a very competitive organization. We all bring songs, but you bring a song, it has to beat one of Vic's songs to make its way onto a record.

AU: You're in Canada, and you've worked a lot with Chris Murray, a Canadian, most notably on the Slackness album.

MG: I'm a big Chris Murray fan. It always blows my mind how he can get on stage in front of huge amounts of people with just him and his acoustic guitar and get people dancing and singing.

TOXIC TOAST

AU: How did this connection come about?

MG: A bathhouse. We met in a Turkish bathhouse. He was getting a massage.

GP: In the East Village.

MG: Yeah, and he was in the not-happy-ending section. We were in that section too, because the

full service is very expensive and I don't have that kind of money.

GP: We were snapping towels.

MG: And we were doing it on the upbeat.

GP: And he was like "You play ska? We should hang out!"

Check out The Slackers at www.theslackers.com
Follow Michael Luis on Twitter: @MichaelACLuis

LOUD CHART

top 5

1. HIGH ARCTIC – WALRUS

2.CHARIOTS OF THE GODS – TIDES OF WAR

3. VOIVOD – TARGET EARTH

4. ABRIOSIS – VESSEL

5. SHAI HULUD – REACH BEYOND THE SUN

LOUD SHOWS

FLYING TEAPOT
TUES 6-8AM

THE FIJI MERMAID
WED 3:30-5PM

TWO HOURS TO MIDNIGHT
WED 10PM-12AM

THE ACTION INDEX
THURS 6:30-8PM

ROCK & ROLL BREAKFAST
FRI 1-3PM

FORBIDDEN PLANET
SAT 1-2:30PM

101.9

listen to the LATEST SHOWS ONLINE!

CFUV.UVIC.CA

WAY WEST COAST

LOUD

LOUD

34 read absoluteunderground.ca watch absoluteunderground.tv



**THE WORLD'S #1
HORROR MAGAZINE**
IS AVAILABLE PRIOR TO NEWSSTANDS ON
**iPHONE, iPAD, IPOD TOUCH, PC/MAC
AND ANDROID DEVICES**

BONUS CONTENT, AUDIO AND VIDEO
HIGHLIGHTS AND LOTS MORE!

\$4.99 PER ISSUE **\$49.95** ONE YEAR
SUBSCRIPTION
11 ISSUES

VISIT RUE-MORQUE.COM OR
YOUR PLATFORM'S APP STORE

0071

JAMES BONG



Like Us On
Facebook

SHOP ONLINE AT BCSMOKESHOP.CA

